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SHORT LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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BY

E. C. DONNELLY

Albert's College Library

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January.

Chants the ice-crowned JANUARY :
"I within my bosom bear
Thine Espousals, pure and fair,
Virgin Bride! I hail thee, Mary!"

E. C. D.

acc: 11969

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JANUARY 1.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

"AFTER eight days were accomplished that the child should be circumcised: his name was called JESUS, which was called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."—ST. LUKE ii. 21.

Under the knife of Circumcision lies
The little Lamb divine,—
The Precious Blood the swathing-linen dyes;
And drops, like rubies, shine
On Mary's veil; but she and Joseph dear,
With strange delight, the name of JESUS hear.

My gentle friend, upon thy fair New Year,
As on the linen white,
The Precious Blood is shining—oh! revere
Those drops with strange delight;
And may the name of JESUS consecrate
Each thought and word and work that on it wait!

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

A tender devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

JANUARY 2.

ST. MACARIUS, Hermit.

ST. MACARIUS was born at Alexandria in 306. His parents were poor pagans, and he was not baptized a Christian until he had attained his thirtieth year. Shortly after that event he retired into the deserts of the Thebaid, and lived there the life of a most austere cenobite until he was ninety-nine years old. God permitted him to be tried by a multitude of violent temptations; but, overcoming the snares of the demon by the arms of prayer and penance, he had the honor, at last, to suffer persecution for the faith, and became one of its fervent apostles.

'Tis not Thy promised heavenly reward
Attracts me, O my God, to love of Thee:
Nor am I moved from sin's reproach to flee
By fear of its eternal fierce award.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.

Favorite Practice.

An humble perseverance in prayer under temptation and trial.

JANUARY 3.

ST. GENEVIEVE, Virgin.

ABOUT the year 422, St. Genevieve was born in a village near Paris named Nanterre. When she was yet a little child, the bishop of Auxerre, St. Germain, passing near that spot, saw the young Genevieve among the crowd which pressed to welcome him; and discerning in her (by inspiration) the religious vocation, with his own hands invested her, then, with the holy habit. She made, thereafter, rapid progress in piety; but her holiness was exercised and augmented by many tribulations and humiliations. When Paris was besieged, first by Attila and his hosts, and again by Merovée, king of the Franks, St. Genevieve, on both occasions, was instrumental in saving the city from destruction. She died in 512, and is invoked as the patroness of Paris.

Patience and abnegation of self, and devotion to others,
This was the lesson a life of trial and sorrow had taught her.
So was her love diffused, but, like to some odorous spices,
Suffered no waste or loss, though filling the air with aroma.
Other hope had she none, nor wish in life, but to follow
Meekly, with reverent steps, the sacred feet of her Saviour.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

A generous courage in trials arising from the ingratitude or injustice of men.

JANUARY 4.

ST. TITUS, Bishop of Crete.

ST. TITUS was converted to the faith by the great apostle St. Paul, and afterwards became his disciple and companion in his evangelical wanderings. In the year 63, St. Paul created Titus bishop of Crete, and there addressed to him one of his wonderful Epistles. Later on St. Titus labored at Nicopolis, and in Dalmatia, in the work of the Gospel; but after the martyrdom of St. Paul he returned to his diocese of Crete, and died there at a very advanced age.

In white arrayed,—his face as though it were
Lit with the radiance of the star of dawn.

ALIGHIERI DANTE.

Favorite Practice.

"*In all things show yourself an example of good works; in doctrine, in integrity, in gravity.*"—TITUS II. 7.

JANUARY 5.

ST. EMILIANA, Virgin.

ST. EMILIANA was a daughter of the Roman senator Gordian. She was one of a family of saints; her uncle being the Pope St. Felix, and her nephew the famous St. Gregory the Great. With her sister, St. Thrasilla, Emiliana made a vow of chastity, and devoted herself to an ascetic life in their father's house. Thrasilla was first called to her reward, but shortly after her death she appeared to St. Emiliana, inviting her to celebrate with her in heaven the approaching feast of the Epiphany. In response, as it were, to the celestial invitation, Emiliana died the following day, January 5, which was the vigil of that blessed festival.

Happy soul! she shall discover
What joy, what bliss,
How many heavens at once it is,
To have a God become her Lover!

RICHARD CRASHAW.

Favorite Practice.

A sweet solicitude to preserve family union and harmony.

JANUARY 6.

THE EPIPHANY.

"AND when the Magi had heard the king, they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the child was. And seeing the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And going into the house, they found the Child with Mary, his Mother; and falling down, they adored him; and opening their treasures, they offered to him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."—ST. MATTHEW ii. 9–12.

See, along the dusky paths,
  Tramp the camels through the snow;
See, through long toilsome roads,
  Where the eastern Magi go.
Learn the blessed lesson well,—
  Through the darkness, through the cold,
Seek and find our Lord with zeal,
  Like those holy kings of old.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

Detachment from one's personal comforts.

ST. LUCIAN, Priest and Martyr.

ST. LUCIAN was a native of Samosata, and was born in the latter part of the third century. At an early age he distributed his worldly goods to the poor, and after completing his theological studies was ordained priest. Besides his sacerdotal duties, he devoted himself to works of charity, and to the revision of the books of the Old and New Testament. Having been denounced as a Christian, St. Lucian was put in chains and tortured for twelve whole days. Whilst he lay upon his prison-floor with his bones wounded and dislocated, some Christians, on the festival of the Epiphany, brought him the bread and wine, and there, making use of his own breast as an altar, he consecrated the elements, and gave the holy communion to himself and to the other Christians who surrounded him. St. Lucian was martyred at Nicomedia, in the year 312.

The nuptial-guests are ready—exultant, calm, and strong
Go forth the willing legions, the manna-nourished throng.
And he, the martyrs' chieftain, who walks with firmest tread,
Lay fettered in the dawn light upon his dungeon-bed;
Aye, there, in twofold office he shared the daybreak-feast,
And offered love's oblation, its altar and its priest!

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

A frequent and, if possible, a daily attendance at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

ST. SEVERINUS, Bishop.

IN the fifth century St. Severinus quitted his hermit-cell in the solitudes of the East, and devoted himself to evangelizing the population of Norcia, in Austria, and the Tyrol. He at first met with great resistance, but his persevering labors and saintly example soon effected wonders of conversion. Like St. John the Baptist, he preached penance continually to his hearers; and he required that those who were afflicted or infirm should first do penance for their sins before he would consent to pray for them or heal them of their diseases. He possessed the gift of prophecy, and was regarded by kings and nations with singular veneration. He died upon January 9, 482.

He always wins who sides with God,
To him no chance is lost;
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at his cost.

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

Some little self-denial in lawful pleasures.

ST. JULIAN AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

ST. JULIAN and his young wife, St. Basilla, some time in the third or fourth century, devoted their lives and property to the poor and sick. They turned their abode into a hospital, and entertained pilgrims, ministering in person to the needs of the afflicted. Imitating the example of the Immaculate Virgin and her holy spouse, St. Joseph, Julian and his wife, on the day of their union, pronounced the solemn vow of chastity, and thereafter lived in its most faithful observance. Basilla was subjected to torture for the faith, but outlived the ordeal. St. Julian, however, was martyred some years after, with many other holy confessors, being beheaded at Antioch on the 9th of January, 313.

Where hearts unstained . . .
Have still a simple faith in God.
Hearts that, in pleasure and in pain,
The more they're trod, rebound the more.

DENIS FLORENCE MACCARTHY.

Favorite Practice.

To harbor the harborless.

ST. WILLIAM, Archbishop of Bourges.

HAVING renounced great wealth and social rank, St. William embraced the ecclesiastical state, and was made a canon, first of Soissons, and afterwards of Paris. He withdrew, later, into the Order of Citeaux, but was forced to quit his retirement by being elevated to the archiepiscopal see of Bourges. In this high position he manifested a wonderful zeal and charity, and was accustomed to style the poor his "creditors." St. William was chiefly remarkable for his tender devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He prophesied his own death from the pulpit, and expired on the 10th of January, 1202.

Jesu! whom, for the present, veiled I see,
What I so thirst for, oh! vouchsafe to me:
That I may see Thy countenance unfolding,
And may be blest Thy glory in beholding.

Trans. from ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

Favorite Practice.

A daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

ST. THEODOSIUS, Hermit.

BOUT the year 423. St. Theodosius was born in Cappadocia, and received a careful Christian training. After having been ordained to the priesthood, he felt himself called to a life of stricter retirement, and became one of the anchorites of the desert. Here he was followed by so many zealous disciples that he was forced to found a monastery, wherein he and his brethren lived in the practice of most heroic charity to pilgrims and the poor. The continual topic of his thoughts and conversation was the preparation for a holy death. Despite his hard and laborious life, St. Theodosius lived to the age of 106 years.

Remote from that distracted world
Where sin has reared his gloomy throne,
With passion's ensign sweetly furled,
We live and breathe for heaven alone.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

An invocation, morning and night, for the grace of a holy death.

ST. ARCADIUS, Martyr.

ST. ARCADIUS was a wealthy and high-born Christian of Cæsarea, who during the persecution of Valerian, about the year 257, fled away to escape the tortures of martyrdom. One of his relatives offered himself to die in his stead; and when Arcadius heard of the heroic act, his heart was so moved that he returned at once and surrendered himself to the judge. Threats and allurements were tried in turn to drive him to apostatize; but sooner than deny the faith of Christ, Arcadius suffered his executioners to cut off his limbs, one by one, and finally to disembowel him. His dying prayer was, "My God, forgive them: they know not what they do!"

. . . He seemed, in swift career,
Caught up to an expanse of perfect white,
Adorned with thousand flames that gave a golden light.

From the Italian of TORQUATO TASSO.

Favorite Practice.

A generous forgetfulness of self with those who annoy us.

ST. VERONICA OF MILAN, Virgin.

ST. VERONICA was a poor maiden of Milan. Possessed of an angelic piety, she wished to enter the convent of the Augustinian nuns of St. Martha, who were established in her native city. But the poverty of her parents had prevented the holy girl from receiving even the first rudiments of education. After working hard all day, Veronica devoted a part of each night to laboriously learning how to read and write, and succeeded without a teacher. Once when she was extremely discouraged over her studies, the Blessed Virgin consoled her by telling her that it sufficed for her to know three letters, which were, the love of God above all things, charity for our neighbor, and a tender devotion to the passion of Jesus Christ. Finally, after three years of preparation, St. Veronica entered the convent of St. Martha, and there led the life and died the death of a saint.

When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison-walls to be,
I do the little I can do,
And leave the rest to Thee!

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

A gentle persistence in overcoming oostacles in the service of God.

ST. HILARY, BISHOP OF POITIERS.

IN the fourth century, the Emperor Constantius, favoring the Arian heresy and being offended at the Christian boldness of Bishop Hilary of Poitiers in opposing his projects, banished that prelate to the East and caused him to remain in exile. St. Hilary, however, devoted himself in the interval to the composition of an admirable treatise on the Trinity, clearly setting forth the orthodox doctrine; and by his action at the Council of Seleucia, as well as by his writings and prudent measures, preserved the Church from a deplorable schism. He died at Poitiers in 368.

Far from the busy haunts of men,
Far from their bustle, toil, and strife,
Within my own dear shady glen,
I lead a quiet, studious life.
While towns with carking cares are rife
I muse alone where few intrude;
The cares that whet Decay's sharp knife
Break not upon my solitude.

REV. P. A. TREACY.

Favorite Practice.

Zealously to shun whatever could dim the pure light of faith.

ST. PAUL, First Hermit.

DURING the violent persecution of the Christians by the Emperor Dacian in the year 250, St. Paul of the lower Thebaid fled into the desert, and there in prayer and penance lived until he attained the great age of 113 years. Beside a clear brook, in a grotto shaded by a palm-tree, this first hermit spent his peaceful days; and when the palm no longer availed to furnish him with food, a raven brought him from God his daily portion of bread. St. Anthony came at last to hold a spiritual conference with Paul, and the raven brought him then a double allowance of bread, so that his guest might not remain unsupplied. A few days passed, and Paul slept in the Lord; and two lions came and hollowed out a grave, to which St. Anthony consigned the blessed corse.

There have been holy men who hid themselves
Deep in the woody wilderness, and gave
Their lives to thought and prayer, till they outlived
The generation born with them, nor seemed
Less aged than the hoary trees and rocks
Around them.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

To cultivate an unwavering trust in the providence of God.

ST. HONARATUS, Bishop.

ASCION of one of the noblest consular families of Gaul, St. Honaratus, in the fourth century, renounced the empty honors and riches of his position, and retired with his brother, to a solitary retreat far from their own country. His brother having died soon after, Honaratus returned to Gaul, and erected his hermitage on the isle of Lerins, where he soon found himself surrounded by other pious cenobites. He devoted his time to training these disciples and initiating them into the highest religious virtue; giving special attention to the sanctification of St. Hilary, who was to succeed him. Having been appointed bishop of Arles, St. Honaratus held the see about two years, and died in 429.

Onward he moves to meet his latter end,
Angels around befriending virtue's friend;
Sinks to the grave with unperceived decay,
While resignation gently slopes the way;
And all his prospects, brightening to the last,
His heaven commences ere the world is past

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Favorite Practice.

A self-sacrificing solicitude for the best interests of others.

ST. ANTHONY, Abbot.

BORN in Coma, in Upper Egypt, in 251, St. Anthony, while still in the flower of his youth, distributed his great wealth among the poor of Christ and retired into the desert. There he passed his days in strict poverty and the practice of heroic mortifications, devoting himself to silence, prayer, and manual labor. After a probation of mystical trials, and assaults of the Evil One, his reputation for sanctity drew around him thousands of disciples, to whom he gave a monastic rule; and in the direction of whom he became a very master and patriarch of cenobites. He died in the desert in 356, at the age of 105.

This is the sanctuary of the soul:
Here comes no murmur of the ways of men;
I kneel in rapture at the holy goal,
And breathe again.

JOHN ARTHUR HENRY.

Favorite Practice.

To devote each day some little time to the consideration of the things of Eternity.

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER AT ROME.

ST. PETER, having been appointed by our divine Lord Himself the Head of the Church and His representative on earth, proceeded in the fulfilment of his mission to evangelize Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and the neighboring countries; and finally, in the year 41 of the vulgar era, established his see at Rome, the capital of the civilized world. There he thenceforth preached; there he wrote his two epistles to the churches of Asia; and there he suffered martyrdom on the 29th of June, in the year 44. In the imperishable See of Rome, that which Peter was the Pope still is, and will continue to be—the Pastor of pastors and common Father of the faithful.

What though thy hands are fettered as they lift
The blessing of the cross? They still can guide,
Like Israel's cloud, thy children scattered wide
Still are they warning to lost flocks adrift
On mist-enshrouded slopes; still can they bless
Thy faithful ones, who, weeping, peace implore,
Who, striving, spread thy realm far countries o'er.
Still rulest thou while kings, as shadows, pass;
And still the weary, craving love and home,
Peace in thy bosom seek, Eternal Rome!

EDITH COOK.

Favorite Practice.

To increase devotion to the Holy See.

ST. SULPICIUS, Bishop.

ST. SULPICIUS was a priest of Gaul in the seventh century, under Austregisilus, bishop of Bourges. The king, Clothaire II., learning of the zeal and piety which had characterized the life of the servant of God from early youth, appointed Sulpicius the almoner to his own serfs. A miraculous cure having afterwards been wrought in the person of the monarch through the prayers of his holy almoner, Clothaire had the latter elevated to the see of Bourges. In that responsible position, Sulpicius manifested a wonderful zeal, prudence, and exactitude of discipline. His days were spent in apostolic labors, and his nights devoted to prayer. Full of good works, he died on January 17th, 644.

We will as yet,
With God's help,
Instruct thy mind;
That thou the better mayest
Discover to the skies
The right path.

From KING ALFRED'S *Metres of Boëthius.*

Favorite Practice.

An active solicitude for the salvation of our neighbor

ST. SEBASTIAN, Martyr.

UNDER the Emperors Diocletian and Maximian, one of the highest officers in the Prætorian guard was the noble St. Sebastian. A Christian and a soldier, he made use of his commanding position to succor the persecuted of the faith of Christ and uphold them in their trials. Finally denounced to Diocletian, Sebastian boldly professed himself a Christian, and was condemned by the emperor to perish by the hands of archers. The arrows, however, failing to give him the crown of martyrdom, he was beheaded by the imperial orders in the year 288.

O faithful Saint Sebastian!
The arrows long ago
Have ceased their work of torture,
And the crown is on thy brow;
Thine eyes are raised as ever,
In the fulness of their love,
But their pain hath changed to triumph,
In the glorious courts above.

ELLEN DOWNING.

Favorite Practice.

To recall daily the fact that by the Sacrament of Confirmation you are made, really and truly, a soldier of Christ.

ST. AGNES OF ROME, Virgin and Martyr.

TOWARDS the close of the third century the beautiful maiden Agnes was born at Rome, of rich and noble parents, and dedicated to God from her very childhood. Being sought in marriage by illustrious suitors in her early girlhood, Agnes declined all the brilliant alliances tendered to her, and declared herself unalterably the spouse of Jesus Christ. Enraged at her Christian firmness, the Roman authorities subjected the virtue and modesty of the holy child to the most terrible ordeals; but the power of her Eternal Spouse protected her miraculously from the diabolical machinations of her enemies, and her fair young life was crowned with martyrdom. She perished by the sword by order of the Roman governor.

"Tear that white robe from her shoulders!" Tyrant mandates know not pity.
She droops, clothed in her own blushes—could there garments be more fair?
Lo! down-fallen from its fastenings, before all that mighty city,
She stands mantled and enshrouded in the glory of her hair.

Then swift beneath the sword-flash streams the life-blood hotly gushing:
The red current, overflowing, bathes her whiteness in its sea.
Maidens, cease your tender weeping, all your anguished sobs be hushing;
Pain is but a dream forever, and the martyr's soul is free!

MRS. MANNIX.

Favorite Practice.

To guard with extreme care and caution the holy virtue of purity.

ST. VINCENT, Martyr.

ST. VINCENT was a deacon of the Church in Saragossa, Spain, in the fourth century. When the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximian raged against the Christians, Vincent was brought before the judges in chains. His ardent faith provoking the special anger of his enemies, he was beaten with rods at the pillory, torn with iron hooks, and cast upon burning coals. Remaining constant under all these tortures, the tyrant Valentius sought by healing the martyr's wounds and surrounding him with luxuries to allure him from the faith, but the brave young hero resisted blandishments and torments alike, and expired from the effects of his wounds in 323, at the early age of twenty-three.

But firmly stood the holy youth,
By many a guardian bright attended,
Unshrinking zeal and spotless truth
In holy rapture calmly blended.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To resist with equal courage the fierce assaults and gentle allurements of the Enemy.

THE ESPOUSALS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN AND ST. JOSEPH.

WHEN the Blessed Virgin Mary had attained her fourteenth year she was espoused by the high-priest, in the Temple of Jerusalem, to St. Joseph, the husband chosen for her by the Divine decree. An ancient tradition avers that St. Joseph was indicated as the chosen spouse of Mary by the miraculous flowering of a rod which he held in his hand, as well as by the apparition of a shining dove which descended at the same time from heaven and rested upon the head of the future Foster-Father of Jesus.

"*Veni!*" she hears it nearer tremble,
"Arise, O love, and quit thy cell;
Already in the courts assemble
The noblest youths of Israel;
And princely suitors there await
Thine entrance at the inner gate."

Dear *Mater Admirabilis!*
Ere the high-priest leads thee forth to stand
Where Joseph waits 'mid the throng in peace,
With the blossoming staff in his aged hand;—
Ah! turn from thy lilies, thy work, thy book,
And gladden thy children with one fond look.

From "Crowned with Stars."

Favorite Practice.

A deep reverence for the sanctity of the marriage-state.

ST. TIMOTHY, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. TIMOTHY was the child of a pagan father; but his mother Eunice and his grandmother Loyda were both devout Jewesses, and trained the boy to virtue from his earliest years. He became, in time, the spiritual and well-beloved son and co-laborer of the apostle St. Paul; and the latter addressed to him two epistles which constitute a portion of the inspired Word. Having been made bishop of Ephesus by St. Paul, Timothy, on one occasion, in striving to rescue from the idolaters some poor victims whom they were about to sacrifice to their false gods, became himself the prey of their fury. He was dragged through the streets of the city, and stoned to death, in the year 97.

What is the blessed prize? What crowns the victory?
It is the lily-white of pure Divinity.

From the German of REV. J. SCHEFFLER (*Angelus Silesius*).

Favorite Practice.

To sacrifice self to the demands of Christian charity.

JANUARY 25.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE.

"AND it came to pass as he went on his journey, that he drew near to Damascus; and suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him. And falling on the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why dost thou persecute me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And He: I am Jesus whom thou dost persecute: it is hard for thee to kick against the goad. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"—ACTS ix. 3–7.

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,
Oh! lead me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet: I do not ask to see
The distant scene: one step enough for me.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

Prompt correspondence to the inspirations of God.

ST. PAULA, Widow.

ST. PAULA was a wealthy widow of Rome in the fourth century. The learned St. Jerome trained and directed her and her gifted daughter Eustochia in the practice of heroic virtue. After expending her income in works of charity, Paula retired from Rome to the Holy Land, and passed the remainder of her life in Palestine, devoting herself (and with her Eustochia) to prayer and meditation, and labors for the poor, in the very spots made sacred by the presence of her Lord and Saviour. St. Paula ended her saintly career in 404.

And, following her beloved Lord,
In decent poverty,
She makes her life one sweet record
And deed of charity.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

The Stations or Holy Way of the Cross.

JANUARY 27.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Bishop and Doctor.

SURNAMED Chrysostom, or the Golden-mouthed, because of his heavenly eloquence, St. John was raised by unanimous acclaim to the see of Constantinople in 397. The age in which he lived was rife with scandals. The empress Eudoxia was ruling her court, intoxicated with ambition and sinful excesses. The heresies of the Arians, the Eunomians, and the Montanists were prevailing on every side. Pagan games and spectacles were the order of the day; and even the clergy of the diocese were relaxed from the austerity of their discipline by the corrupting influence of the times. Having opposed all these disorders with the strong weapon of his courageous eloquence, Chrysostom was calumniated and persecuted. He was twice banished from his bishopric, and finally died in exile in September, 407.

'Tis not the thought of glory won,
Of hoarded gold or pleasures gone,
But one bright course from earliest youth,
Of changeless faith, unbroken truth,
This turns to gold the vapors dun
That close on life's descending sun.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To calmly and boldly oppose the spirit of human respect.

ST. CYRIL, Patriarch of Alexandria.

IT was to St. Cyril, the great and zealous patriarch of Alexandria, that Pope Celestine I., in the fifth century, intrusted the important work of refuting the impious Nestorius. That unhappy man was striving to spread false doctrine throughout the Christian world, in infamously asserting that the Blessed Virgin, although the Mother of Christ was not the Mother of God. A council at Rome in 430, and another at Ephesus in 431, confirmed the doctrine which St. Cyril taught, in opposition to the false Nestorius; and the fathers of the council were borne aloft in triumph at Ephesus, the people crying aloud, "Blessed be ye who have restored to us our Mother!" St. Cyril peacefully expired at Alexandria in 444.

And this we know: let all the world be dark,
Dear Mary watches o'er our troubled sea;
And this we know: though unknown danger lurks
In all our land, her pure heart is an ark
In which we shelter, childlike, trustingly,—
O heart unstained! the greatest of God's works.

MAURICE F. EGAN.

Favorite Practice.

Frequently repeat, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

JANUARY 29.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES was devoted to God from his infancy. He was of high birth and eminent talents; but he consecrated all to the service of religion, and, laboring indefatigably among the Calvinists of the Chablais, was instrumental, as a missionary, in leading back seventy-two thousand of those heretics to the true fold in the short space of three years. He was made bishop of Geneva in 1602, and by his sweet sanctity, his meek and affable bearing, proved himself a faithful imitator of the gentle Lamb of God. He wrote numerous and valuable works of piety, founded the Order of the Visitation nuns, and died at Lyons in December, 1622.

Pure in all things as an angel,
  Fond and simple as a child;
With himself severe and watchful,
  With the poor and fallen, mild;
He proclaimed that passion leads us
  O'er a dark and thorny road,
And that men are happy only
  When they love and serve their God.

REV. DR. CUMMINGS.

Favorite Practice.

Often to ponder these words: "My spirit is sweeeter than honey and the honeycomb."

ST. BATHOLDA, Widow.

ST. BATHOLDA was originally a slave and in her early youth belonged to a Frank gentleman attached to the court of Clovis II. By her noble virtues she attracted the notice of that king, who made her his wife. The young queen exerted her royal power for the most exalted ends, and passed her time in good works. When left a widow, and invested with the regency, she (who had once known the miseries of slavery) gave all the slaves in her kingdom their freedom. She founded the abbeys of Chelles and Corbie; and as soon as her son, Clothaire III., was old enough to ascend the throne she retired into the convent of Chelles, and closed her life, in the faithful practice of every monastic virtue, towards the year 685.

My crown is in my heart, not on my head;
Not decked with diamonds and Indian stones,
Not to be seen; my crown is called Content:
A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy.

SHAKESPEARE.

Favorite Practice.

To be convinced with Queen Batholda that to serve is to reign.

JANUARY 31.

ST. PETER NOLASCO, Confessor.

IN the thirteenth century a vast number of Christians captured by the infidels, were groaning in bondage, far from their native land. In order to rescue these afflicted souls, exposed to the risk of losing their faith, Peter Nolasco, a French gentleman and courtier of the king of Arragon, felt inspired by God to establish an association for that sublime object. He was joined by thirteen pious companions, and the Order was founded on August 10, 1218. An immense number of captives were ransomed by the instrumentality of St. Peter and his followers. He was favored with a vision of the Blessed Virgin, as well as with the sensible support of the angels. He died in 1280.

Joy and gladness fill the heaven,
When Night's curtains are withdrawn;
Virgin! thou those smiles hast given—
Thou, earth's brightest, fairest dawn!

From the Spanish of FRA ALVARO DE HINOJOSA Y CARBAJAL, OSB.

Favorite Practice.

By teaching the Christian doctrine, to free captive minds from the chains of ignorance.

February.

Moans the shiv'ring FEBRUARY
" Candlemas, amid the snow,
Bids the blessed tapers glow
Bids them burn for thee, O Mary!"

E. C. D

FEBRUARY 1.

ST. IGNATIUS, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. IGNATIUS was the third bishop of Antioch. In the reign of the emperor Trajan he was condemned to be devoured by wild beasts, and was despatched to Rome in order that he might suffer for the faith in the public amphitheatre. He was inflamed with the most ardent desires to enjoy the vision of Christ Jesus, and was only fearful lest some unforeseen obstacle would postpone or prevent the tortures which were to admit him to that celestial delight. When he heard the roar of the lions in the arena, he cried out, "I am the wheat of Christ that is to be ground under the tooth of the beasts." This martyrdom took place in the year 107.

Not with the hope of gaining aught,
Not seeking a reward,
But as Thyself hast lovèd me,
O ever-loving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee and will love,
And in Thy praise will sing,
Solely because Thou art my God,
And my eternal King.

Missal.

Favorite Practice.

A cheerful acceptance of petty trials, exclaiming with St. Ignatius, in the midst of suffering, "Now, indeed, do I begin to be the disciple of Jesus Christ!"

FEBRUARY 2.

THE PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

"AND after the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. . . . And to offer a sacrifice, according as it is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons."—ST. LUKE ii. 22–24.

The doves in their basket of osiers complain,
And flutter their wings; but the Dove all Divine
Lies mute in the arms of the Saint, gives no sign
Of emotion or pain;

Save to turn on the Prophet those wonderful Eyes,
Those fathomless wells of perpetual light;
The sun, and the moon, and the stars of the night,
Were dark to those Eyes.

And flushed with the glow of Eternity's dawn,
From Simeon's lip bursts the anthem of faith,—
The song of the saint is the sweetest in death,
Like the song of the swan.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

A patient waiting for the fulfilment of God's promises.

FEBRUARY 3.

ST. BLASE, Bishop and Martyr.

DURING the reign of the emperor Diocletian, St. Blase was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, and manifested a holy zeal for the purity of the faith and the sanctification of his flock. He was endowed with the gift of working miracles, and the sick had frequent recourse to him to be healed of their infirmities. In the persecution of Licinius St. Blase suffered martyrdom, first being torn with iron hooks, and finally beheaded, in the year 316. This blessed martyr is specially invoked in diseases of the throat, having once, it is said, wrought a wonderful miracle upon the throat of a child who was brought to him in such a state of suffering as to threaten speedy death

. . . At his control,
Despair and anguish fled the struggling soul,
Comfort came down the trembling wretch to raise,
And his last faltering accents whispered praise.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Favorite Practice.

To secure the blessing of the throat, given annually through the intercession of St. Blase upon his festival.

ST. ANDREW CORSINI, Bishop.

IN Florence, in the year 1302, St. Andrew was born of the illustrious family of the Corsini. His youth was spent in the wildest dissipation; but, through the prayers and tears of his pious mother (who had offered her son to God before his birth), the grace of God, and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, wrought a sudden conversion in the young man's heart, and he became a Carmelite monk, and afterwards bishop of Fiesole. Both as a religious and as a prelate he led a most austere and saintly life. In his diocese he exercised a heavenly ministry of conciliation and peace, thus realizing a vision which his mother is said to have had prior to his birth, when it appeared to her that she had brought forth a wolf which was afterwards changed into a lamb. He entered into rest on January 6, 1373, dying at Fiesole, beloved and lamented by all.

. . . That I might scatter wide and far
My Maker's praise from star to star,
And joyous sing how He had smiled
Forgiveness on His erring child.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To pray for the conversion of sinners, invoking to that end the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

SAINT AGATHA, Virgin and Martyr.

THE youthful Agatha being very beautiful, rich, and of a noble house in the town of Catania, the pagan governor, Quintin, became enamored of her, and wished to marry her. But Agatha had already secretly espoused herself to Jesus Christ, and repulsed the governor's addresses. Enraged at this, Quintin, on pretext of her being a Christian, delivered the tender virgin to the torturers. She was forthwith scourged, torn with iron hooks, and her breasts and sides lacerated and scorched with fiery metal. After all these torments being cast into a dungeon, St. Peter the Apostle appeared to her and healed her wounds. She was brought before Quintin a second time, but remained inflexibly constant to her faith and sacred vow. St. Agatha was then ordered to be dragged over burning coals and afterwards over potsherds. An earthquake took place at the time of this second torture, and Quintin fled from the town in terror. St. Agatha died in prison the next night, A.D. 251.

Flower of the lily! on thee Heaven's dews drop down;
Treasure the sweetness of the Hidden Life;
Thy Nazareth is Mary's Paradise.
Jesus is thine; thy Spouse, thy virgin-crown.

JOSEPH W. S. NORRIS.

Favorite Practice.

An unyielding constancy in good resolutions, "With purpose of heart to continue in the Lord."

ST. DOROTHY, Virgin and Martyr.

ST. DOROTHY was a noble virgin of the city of Cesarea, in Cappadocia, of exceeding grace and beauty, and devoted to a life of prayer and almsgiving. She was apprehended for the faith, and on her trial expressed her joyful willingness to die for Christ, declaring that in the garden of her Eternal Spouse grew celestial fruits, and flowers which never fade. She was condemned to be cruelly tortured and then beheaded. As she was led forth to death, a young lawyer of the city mocked her, and asked her to send him some flowers and fruits from the wonderful Garden of her Bridegroom. Dorothy gently smiled and assented. And when Theophilus, the lawyer, sat, later, making merry with his friends, an angel appeared to him with a basket of roses and apples, saying, "Dorothea sends thee this." The result of this miracle was the instantaneous conversion of Theophilus, who was afterwards martyred for the faith. St. Dorothy suffered in 303.

. . . They remind me, too,
Of martyred Dorothea,
Who from celestial gardens sent
Flowers as her witnesses
To him who scoffed and doubted.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To consider that our spiritual garden must produce not only beautiful flowers but substantial fruits of piety.

February 7.

ST. ROMUALD, Abbot.

AT Ravenna, about the year 956, St. Romuald was born, and bred without true Christian training. His early years were wild and disorderly; but, having acted as second in a duel in which his own father fought and killed a relative, Romuald was so deeply impressed with the fatal result that he retired into a neighboring monastery, and there, touched by divine grace, made a spiritual retreat and became a monk. His father was enraged at this step, but the young convert, by his prayers and good example, finally induced his guilty parent to also renounce the world and become a religious. St. Romuald ultimately founded a new Order, known as the Monks of Camaldoli, and died the death of the just in the year 1027.

Like Abraham ascending up the hill
To sacrifice, his servants left below,
That he might act the great Commander's will
Without impeach to his obedient blow;
Even so, the soul, remote from earthly things,
Should mount Salvation's shelter—Mercy's wings.

FATHER ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To prize the moment of grace, and to correspond promptly to it.

FEBRUARY 8.

ST. JOHN OF MATHA, Confessor.

ST. JOHN DE MATHA was born in Provence, of devout parents, about the middle of the twelfth century, and was carefully trained in piety. He studied at Aix, and subsequently at Paris, devoting all his leisure time to works of mercy to the poor and afflicted. He was finally ordained priest, and on the day of his first Mass he conceived the project of founding a religious Order devoted to the redemption of captives. The Christians captured by pirates, and in bondage among the Mussulmans in Spain and Africa were subjected to outrageous abuse, and in danger of losing their faith. The new Order was called the Trinitarians, and St. John de Matha led himself the first expedition for the ransoming of the Christian slaves. Worn out with his great labors in the sublime cause, he died in 1213.

O brave young Christian herald ! from afar
Comes thy bright story as a guiding star ;
Neglectful centuries could not hide thy fame
Nor dim the lustre of thy glorious name.

REV. PATRICK CRONIN.

Favorite Practice.

To visit and console poor prisoners.

ST. APOLLONIA, Virgin and Martyr.

THERE dwelt in the city of Alexandria, in the third century, a wealthy magistrate and his wife, who were heathens and had no children. Once, this magistrate's wife out of charity entertained and gave alms to three Christian pilgrims, who in return, preached to her the faith of Christ and the efficacy of devotion to the Blessed Virgin. As the woman was eagerly desirous of offspring, she (heathen as she was) besought the Mother of God to obtain for her a child. Her prayer was heard, and a daughter was born to her, who was called Apollonia. She grew up fair and beautiful, and was baptized a Christian, and was then directed by an angel to go preach the faith in Alexandria. Many were converted by her wonderful eloquence, but her own heathen father delivered her up to martyrdom. She was bound to a column, and all her beautiful teeth pulled out one by one; and finally a fire was kindled and she was flung into it, and thus went to God in the year 250. St. Apollonia is invoked in diseases of the teeth.

O fair! O fortunate! O rich! O dear!
O happy and thrice happy she,
Dear silver-breasted dove,
Whoe'er she be,
Whose early love,
With wingèd vows,
Makes haste to meet her morning Spouse!

RICHARD CRASHAW.

Favorite Practice.

Almsgiving with a supernatural intention, seeing God alone in the persons of His poor.

St. Albert's College Library

FEBRUARY 10.

ST. SCHOLASTICA, Virgin.

ST. SCHOLASTICA was the sister of the great St. Benedict, and her soul was his particular charge from early youth. When her holy brother founded the monastery of Monte Cassino, Scholastica took up her abode close by, and thus was able, at intervals, to receive the instructions and direction of St. Benedict. At their last interview, Scholastica felt a premonition of her approaching death, and besought her brother to extend his visit beyond its usual limits. This, through a spirit of mortification, he declined to do. St. Scholastica had recourse to prayer; and a sudden storm arose, whose violence compelled St. Benedict to remain where he was. Three days afterward, on the 10th of February, 543, Benedict beheld his sister's soul ascending to heaven in the form of a white dove.

. . . It is enough
To catch one glimpse of heaven's blue,
For us to know the beauty of the sky.
It is enough to tell a little part
Of her most holy life, that you may know
The hidden grace and splendor of the whole.

FATHER RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

To submit one's spiritual life to the guidance of a wise and enlightened director.

February 11

ST. SEVERINUS, Abbot.

BBOT of the monastery of St. Maurice in the Valais, St. Severinus was remarkable in the fifth century for his eminent charity and for the many miraculous cures he effected in the sick. Clovis I. of France, in the year 507, being ill of an obstinate fever which baffled the skill of his physicians, sent for the holy abbot of St. Maurice; and no sooner had Severinus laid upon the king the hem of his monastic robe and besought Heaven for his cure, than the monarch was healed of his malady. In gratitude to the saint, King Clovis gave him permission to draw from the royal coffers abundant alms for the poor, and to set at liberty all such prisoners as he might deem fit. On his way back to his monastery, Severinus happily expired.

There beside the failing lamp
Of the lowly and the stricken
He hath stood to cheer and quicken.

DR. R. D. JOYCE.

Favorite Practice.

Frequent visits to the sick, and particularly to those who are poor and desolate.

ST. EULALIA, Virgin and Martyr.

A YOUNG Spanish virgin, a native of Barcelona, St. Eulalia, in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian, gave herself up to the tyrant Dacian, professing her faith in Christ, and upbraiding her judge for his cruelty. She was thereupon subjected to the most barbarous atrocities; but miracles were wrought even during these tortures, for the fire which was applied to the martyr either failed to burn her pure flesh or was turned against her tormentors. She finally, however, yielded up her virgin soul amid the flames, ascending to God in the shape of a gentle bird; and her body having been cast to the beasts, was so protected by a supernatural cloud that the Christians were able to bear it safely away.

And rack and torture shall be wreathed with roses,
And death be painless when it leads to Thee;
For men shall see how strong that soul can be
Which on Thy strength reposes.

From "DOMUS DEI."

Favorite Practice.

To fear not them that kill the body, but to fear Him who can destroy both body and soul.

ST. GREGORY II., Pope.

ST. GREGORY is especially remarkable for having zealously opposed the fury of the Iconoclasts, in the eighth century, who waged a bitter war against sacred symbols, ruthlessly destroying religious statues, crosses, and pictures, under the pretence of zeal for the glory of God. The authority of Leo, the Isaurian, then occupying the imperial throne of Constantinople, was exerted to uphold these fanatics in their outrages upon the holy images, dear to the veneration of the faithful. Pope Gregory therefore assembled a council in 726, which resulted in the condemnation of the Iconoclasts. The emperor became enraged, and indulged in terrible threats; but St. Gregory calmly and bravely upheld the decrees of the council; and five years later slept tranquilly in the Lord.

As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm;
Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Favorite Practice.

A tender reverence for the holy images of Christ, His Mother, and His saints.

FEBRUARY 14.

ST. VALENTINE, Priest and Martyr.

BELONGING to one of the noblest families of Rome, St. Valentine (in the reign of Claudius II.) was a priest, especially charged to assist the Christian confessors and martyrs. The emperor, hearing of his good works sent for him; and the gentle, persuasive eloquence of Valentine (like that of St. Paul before an earlier monarch) almost induced the emperor to become a follower of Christ. But considerations of state prevailed, and the meek Valentine was surrendered to the tribunal. Here he worked a great miracle by restoring sight to the daughter of one of the officers of the prætorium, who had been blind for two years; and the miracle converted the entire household of the judge, consisting of more than forty persons. The emperor, learning of this, sought to have Valentine released; but, fearing a tumult among the people, as in the case of Pilate, he consigned the just man to execution, and St. Valentine was accordingly beheaded outside the city of Rome in the year 270.

Valentine: the name is good,
For it comes of lineage high
And a famous family;
And it tells of gentle blood,
Noble blood, and nobler still;
For its owner freely poured
Every drop there was to spill
In the battle for his Lord.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

In the cause of justice and truth to remember that "the wisdom of the flesh is death."

February 15.

SS. FAUSTINUS and JOVITA, Martyrs.

THESE holy Christian brothers were natives of Brescia, in Lombardy, and were characterized by a fervent piety from their early youth. At that period none were admitted to Holy Orders save confessors of the faith, or those who had signalized themselves by devoted acts. These Brescian brothers were, therefore, advanced to that great dignity as a reward for their zeal and singular holiness. St. Faustinus as a priest, St. Jovita as a deacon, both devoted themselves to the cause of religion, consoling the persecuted Christians and succoring the martyrs. They were eventually denounced for the faith, and were cast to the wild beasts. The bears and the lions, less cruel than their masters, allowed the martyrs to remain untouched; and the executioners, having first broken the brothers' bones, beheaded them both at Brescia in the year 122.

When earth too closely presses,
And heaven seems far away,
The thought of these will help you
To turn to God and pray.

REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

Family union in prayer and good works.

February 16.

ST. ONESIMUS, Bishop and Martyr.

THE slave of Philemon of Colossus (who was a convert of St. Paul the Apostle), Onesimus, robbed his master, ran away from him, and made his way to St. Paul at Rome. The great apostle converted and baptized the bondman, and then sent him back to Philemon, charging the latter to receive Onesimus as a brother, and to give to him his freedom. The letter containing these instructions to Philemon is one of the most touching and beautiful of the epistles of St. Paul. Once at liberty, Onesimus devoted himself to St. Paul, who sent him, in company with St. Tychicus, to bear an epistle to the Colossians. He was afterwards made bishop of Ephesus. In the persecution of Domitian St. Onesimus was sent in chains to Rome, and there was stoned to death in the year 95.

Oh, let us seize on what is stable
And not on what is shifting! All
Rushes down Life's vast waterfall
On to that sea interminable
Which has no shore. Earth's pleasures pall,
But heaven is safe and sacred too.

From the Spanish of Francisco De Velasco.

Favorite Practice.

To use every lawful means to rescue souls from the slavery of sin.

February 17.

ST. FLAVIAN, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. FLAVIAN was archbishop of Constantinople in 407; but through the machinations of Chrysapius, chamberlain to the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and also a relative of the heresiarch Eutychius, the just Flavian was deposed from his archiepiscopal dignity. Finding that they were unable by their snares to depose him on the charge of simony, the very incorruptibility of the upright prelate was made a pretext for his ruin. Because he would not favor heresy or make rich presents to the emperor out of the funds belonging of right to the poor of Christ, the holy archbishop was subjected to bitter persecution. He appealed at length to the Pope against the unjust sentence passed upon him; and his enemies, becoming exasperated, fell upon him, and maltreated him to such a degree that he died shortly after in exile at Ephesus

Oh, fear not in a world like this,
And thou shalt know ere long,—
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To be courageous under unjust persecution.

FEBRUARY 18.

ST. SIMEON, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. SIMEON, the son of Cleophas, was (according to the flesh) a kinsman of our Lord Jesus Christ. He succeeded St. James the Less in the see of Jerusalem; and after having governed that diocese for a long time through a very turbulent period, he was denounced as a Christian, subjected to prolonged torments, and finally died on the cross at the great age of 120 years.

The learned Abbé Lecanu compares St. Simeon to the brave old man Eleazar who, in the time of the persecution of Antiochus, "gave to the youth of his day a splendid example of holy courage by encountering death rather than renounce, or even seem to waver in his belief."

O faithful cross! O noblest tree!
In all our woods there's none like thee:
No earthly groves, no shady bowers,
Produce such leaves, such fruit, such flowers.
Sweet are the nails, and sweet the wood,
That bears a weight so sweet and good!

Crux fidelis.

Favorite Practice.

To unite each daily cross to the cross of our Divine Lord.

February 19.

ST. BARBATUS, Bishop.

AN eloquent young priest of the diocese of Benevento, St. Barbatus was noted for his grave, pious, and studious life, and was chosen by his bishop to fill an important parochial charge. He was severely tried by the apparently fruitless results of his missionary labors. He was scorned and calumniated; but remaining faithful to duty, he was in the end chosen bishop of Benevento, and long governed that see with admirable wisdom and ability. He had the happiness of converting the Lombard nation to the faith, and of winning the friendship of their ruler, Pertharitus. Full of good works, Barbatus died at a green old age in the year 682.

Heavenly image,—earthly mould,—
Beautiful as bright to view:
Oh, what charms its leaves unfold
Drenched with Suffering's sparkling dew!

From the Spanish of Fra Alvaro Hinojosa y Carbajal, O.S.B.

Favorite Practice.

Patience under calumny, knowing that one must be proved by trial in order to be acceptable to God.

FEBRUARY 20.

ST. EUCHERIUS, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. EUCHERIUS was a scion of an illustrious family of Orleans; and Savarius, the bishop of that town, was his uncle. On the death of the latter, in 771, Eucherius was forced to quit the abbey of Jumièges (where he was living in religious retirement), and became bishop of Orleans in his uncle's stead. He discharged the duties of his high position with saintly fervor and fidelity. Having refused to bestow upon Charles Martel and his soldiers the property of the Church, which the holy bishop considered the patrimony of the poor, he was driven into exile, and persecuted fiercely for six years by the minions of Charles. Worn out with fatigue and suffering, St. Eucherius died in 793, having worn the mitre for twenty-two years.

O pure and blessed soul
That, from thy clay's control
Escaped, hast sought and found thy native sphere,
And from thy crystal throne
Look'st down, with smiles alone,
On this vain scene of mortal hope and fear.

From the Italian of JACOPO SANNAZZARO.

Favorite Practice.

To meekly endure persecution for justice' sake.

February 21.

ST. SEVERINUS, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. SEVERINUS, in the fifth century of the Christian era, had the heroic courage to stand forth in defence of the faith against the heresy of Eutychius, which the Council of Chalcedon had already condemned. It was long before peace was restored to the Church. The heresy had corrupted some of the religious of Palestine; and the patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem was driven from his see by a monastic usurper who persecuted the faithful. Severinus was the bishop of Scytopolis, and as he courageously opposed the usurper, Theodosius, the generosity of his zeal enkindled against him all the fury of the heretics. He was seized by the soldiery, dragged out of the town, and put to a violent death in 453.

. . . I know the name.
Many martyrs bear the same,
And they stand in glittering ring
Round their warrior God and King,
Who before and for them bled,—
With their robes of ruby red
And their swords of cherub-flame.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To beseech St Severinus to obtain for us a share in his holy zeal to combat heresy.

FEBRUARY 22.

ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ANTIOCH.

THE Church at Antioch was founded by the glorious apostle St. Peter; and it was at Antioch that (according to the Acts of the Apostles) the disciples of Jesus Christ first received the name of CHRISTIANS. For it is written: "And Barnabas went to Tarsus to seek Paul: whom when he had found he brought to Antioch. And they conversed there in the church a whole year: and they taught a great multitude, so that at Antioch the disciples were first named Christians." To be a Christian, therefore, is to be the disciple of Christ, and, consequently, to be one of the faithful imitators of a crucified Lord.

. . . Raise your thoughts to that bright realm above
Where Christian Faith and Hope are lost in all-absorbing Love,
And blend the serpent's prudence with the sweetness of the dove;
And faithful to our land and creed, in their bright footsteps move,
Who fought and bled and conquered all those centuries ago!

FATHER THOMAS BURKE, O.P.

Favorite Practice.

A practical reverence for the name and obligations of a true CHRISTIAN.

February 23.

ST. SERENUS, Martyr.

ST. SERENUS was a Greek gardener, who (an exile from his native place) devoted his time to prayer and labor. A certain woman became enamored of the young Greek, as he wrought in the retirement of his garden at Sirmium, in Pannonia, and tried to allure him from virtue; but Serenus, like another Joseph, repulsed the temptress. Infuriated, she laid a complaint before her husband, who was serving in the body-guard of the emperor Maximian, and falsely accused Serenus of having insulted her. The saint, being arrested on this charge, by the mere force of his serene truth and his candor established his innocence before his judges; but the purity of his defence having caused him, then and there, to be recognized as a Christian, he was sentenced to the block, and martyred in the year 307.

. . . I cannot give
The counsel to do this and live;
But rather firmly to deny
The tempter, though his power is strong;
And inaccessible to wrong,
Still like a martyr live and die!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

A scrupulous vigilance against the assaults of sensuality.

FEBRUARY 24.

ST. MATTHIAS, Apostle.

AFTER the awful suicide of the arch-traitor Judas, the Apostles, wished to fill the place in the Sacred College left vacant by that tragic death. But they did not dare to arrogate to themselves the right of creating an apostle. To God alone belonged this high prerogative, and therefore on the Day of Pentecost they selected from among the disciples the two most eligible to the office, and after prayer drew lots to ascertain the choice of the Most High. The lot fell upon Matthias. He became one of the Apostles of Christ, and is believed to have preached the faith in Cappadocia, and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea, residing chiefly near the port Issus. He was remarkable for his austere life, and must have undergone great hardships among the savage people he evangelized. According to tradition, he received the crown of martyrdom in Colchis.

With Fear we must begin,
Then next to Knowledge tend,
But only Love of God
Is Wisdom's perfect end.

From the German of REV. FATHER SCHEFFLER.

Favorite Practice.

To often reflect that if we abuse the grace of God as Judas did, His favors may be withdrawn from us and bestowed upon the souls of others.

February 25.

ST. TARAISIUS, Bishop.

ST. TARAISIUS was patriarch of Constantinople about the middle of the eighth century. He had been reared in great luxury, but his chief care was to inculcate among his clergy and flock, by his own simplicity of life and devotion to the humblest functions of the ministry, a sincere and practical contempt for worldly pomps and gratifications. By his religious veneration for sacred images, he remedied the outrages of the Iconoclasts, and at the same time he firmly advocated the denunciation of the emperor Constantine V., who had divorced his lawful wife in order to marry a concubine. Taraisius, after a long and arduous episcopate, died in 806.

Blessed are they who die for God
And earn the martyr's crown of light;
Yet he who lives for God may be
A greater conqueror in His sight.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

Simplicity of taste in all those personal matters which concern dress and social station.

ST. PORPHYRIUS, Bishop

BORN at Thessalonica, of a wealthy family, St. Porphyrius retired in early manhood to the Egyptian monastery of Scete, where he lived till the age of thirty, in the constant and most edifying practice of monastic discipline. He then went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and fixed his abode in a cave on the banks of the Jordan, desiring nevermore to quit the place made sacred by the presence of his Lord and Master. Here his austerities so enfeebled him that he was scarcely able to walk; but being supported to Mount Calvary, he was miraculously cured of his infirmities on that hallowed spot. He was afterwards made bishop of Gaza, and, having been instrumental in spreading Christianity among the unbelievers there, until nearly the whole city was converted to the faith, he died happily in his see, A.D. 420.

Like pilgrims to the appointed place we tend:
The world's an inn, and death, the journey's end.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

To consider it a happy privilege to joyfully spend and be spent for Christ.

FEBRUARY 27.

ST. JULIAN, Martyr.

WHILE the persecution of the emperor Decius was afflicting the Church in Alexandria, and causing the faith of many weak Christians to waver or fail, a venerable man named Julian, who was paralyzed by age, was borne before the judges in a litter. As he was a staunch and uncompromising believer, neither his years nor his infirmities could interfere with his torments. He was bound to a camel, driven through the town, scourged, insulted, and at last thrown alive into a fire that had been kindled for him. His courage and constancy, however, were invincible, and not only inspired one of his own servants to undergo martyrdom, but also converted one of the pagan soldiers, who was put to death with St. Julian.

And tell how, trampled, derided, hated,
And worn by weakness, disease, and wrong,
He fled for shelter to God.

JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN.

Favorite Practice.

To win others to virtue by the holy force of an edifying example.

FEBRUARY 28.

ST. PROTERIUS, Martyr.

ST. PROTERIUS was patriarch of Alexandria in 452, his predecessor, Dioscorus (a partisan of the arch-heretic Eutychius), having been deposed by the Council of Chalcedon. Great confusion and trouble prevailed in the divided city. Proterius, in his turn, was expelled violently from his see by the heretical Eutychians, but only to be restored again to his dignity by the civil power. The heretics, knowing the firmness of the rightful patriarch, and infuriated at their failure in deposing him, pursued him on Good Friday, in the year 457, to the church of St. Quirinus. There in the baptistry they bound Proterius with cords, trampled on him, and dragged his body thence through the city streets. Finally, tearing the martyr limb from limb, they burnt his remains, and scattered his ashes to the winds.

Aromatic plants bestow
No spicy fragrance while they grow;
But, crushed or trodden to the ground,
Diffuse their balmy sweets around.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Favorite Practice.

To be firm in the cause of truth and right.

February 29.

ST. OSWALD, Confessor.

THE nephew of Odo, archbishop of Canterbury, St. Oswald was originally a monk in the abbey of St. Bennet-on the-Loire. He was recalled to England to succeed St. Dunstan in the see of Worcester, and later to hold that of York. He founded numerous monasteries, being ever partial to the cloistered life, and by his apostolic labors he extended the sway of learning and piety throughout his dioceses. Every day, twelve poor persons were admitted to his table, and (after having washed and kissed their feet) he served them humbly with his own hands. When he had administered the episcopal charge for thirty-three years he began to feel that his end was near. He therefore retired among his beloved monks, and joyfully expired on the 29th of February, 992, pronouncing with his dying lips, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!"

. . . Time has laid his hand
Upon my heart gently, not smiting it,
But as a harper lays his open palm
Upon his harp to deaden its vibrations.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

Favorite Practice.

To reverence and serve our Lord in the persons of His poor.

March.

Cries the boisterous MARCH: "*I see*
Early snow-drops in the way,—
Sweet Annunciation Day
Blooms, O sinless Maid! for thee!"

E. C. D.

MARCH 1.

ST. HERCULANUS, Bishop of Perugia, and Martyr.

ABOUT the middle of the sixth century, when Totila was establishing the second Gothic kingdom of Italy, and most of the Italian cities were submitting to him, Perugia held out for a long period—seven years, it is said—against his arms. This obstinate resistance was due to the intrepidity of St. Herculanus, then bishop of the city, who rallied the drooping spirits of the townspeople and animated them to defend their liberty and their faith. Perugia being finally taken by fraud when force had proved of no avail, St. Herculanus was beheaded by order of the tyrant. His head, however, was miraculously reunited to his body, and his relics are preserved entire at Perugia. We append a translation of the 11th verse of our present illustrious Pontiff's hymn in honor of this saint.

Now reigning in the heavenly hall,
Thine intercession must prevail;
On Thee in confidence we call,
O Pastor, Patron, Parent, hail!

Trans. by PROF. A. J. STACE.

Favorite Practice.

To animate the faith of others by our own heroic example.

MARCH 2.

ST. SIMPLICIUS, Pope and Confessor.

ST. SIMPLICIUS, already made famous by his piety and learning, during the pontificate of St. Leo and St. Hilary, ascended the papal chair in 467. The Arian and Macedonian heresies were then being boldly supported by the imperial authorities of the age, and the seamless robe of Christendom was torn by violence and schism. But St. Simplicius did not despair. By his fervent prayers, by the prudence and firmness of his policy, he met and mastered the difficulties which threatened the cause of Christ; and after twelve laborious years of ecclesiastical administration he died in 483, leaving the Church in perfect peace.

Well has the name of Pontifex been given
Unto the Church's head, as the chief builder
And architect of the invisible bridge
That leads from earth to heaven.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To convince yourself that prayer and perseverance conquer all things.

March 3.

ST. CUNEGUNDA, Queen.

THE wife of the emperor Henry II., St. Cunegunda during the lifetime of her royal husband exercised her power continually in the cause of the poor and oppressed. She founded numerous monasteries, churches, and bishoprics; and on the death of Henry II., she called together the prelates of the empire, and in their presence cast her imperial robes and insignia at the foot of the crucifix. Then, having received the religious veil and habit, she withdrew to a convent, and lived there the life of an humble, obedient, and laborious nun, until her death in the year 1040.

I from my memory have effaced
All former joys, all kindred, friends;
All honors that my station graced
I hold but snares that fortune sends:
Hence! joys by Christ at distance cast,
That we may be His own at last!

From the French of Queen Margaret of Navarre.

Favorite Practice.

To detach one's self, at least in spirit, from the honors and riches of the world.

March 4.

ST. CASIMIR, Confessor.

ST. CASIMIR was born at Cracow in 1458, and was a younger son of Casimir III., king of Poland. He was highly gifted in mind and heart; but the treasures of his gentle soul so far excelled those of nature, that his chief solicitude amid the dangers of his father's court was to faithfully preserve his baptismal innocence. He was zealous in works of piety, and manifested a lively devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He died at the early age of twenty five, and miracles were wrought at his tomb. A century after his death, his body was exhumed and discovered to be incorrupt—a token of the spotless innocence of his life.

Alas! my spirit dreads a stain contracted from the ground:
How shall it guard the robe of white that is its heavenly dower;
Here where we walk in mire and clay, and dust is flying round
Which clings to everything it meets, yes, even to the flower

EUGÉNIE DE GUÉRIN.

Favorite Practice.

To inculcate in children a great solicitude to preserve their baptismal innocence.

March 5.

SS. PERPETUA and FELICITAS, Martyrs.

AMONG the Christian catechumens in the reign of the emperor Severus (A.D. 203 or 204) there were two married women, named Perpetua and Felicitas. During the violent persecution of that period they were both loaded with chains and cast into prison at Carthage. There they were baptized by the other expectant martyrs. Perpetua had a babe still at the breast, and Felicitas brought forth a child amid the cruel discomforts of her dungeon. But both resisted alike the threats of tyrants or the pleading tears of pagan relatives; and having been tossed in the arena on the horns of a furious heifer, they were despatched at last by the sword of the gladiator.

On Thee we fling our burdening woe,
O Love Divine, forever dear,
Content to suffer, while we know,
Living and dying, Thou art near!

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Favorite Practice.

To be faithful to duty in spite of the pleadings of nature

MARCH 6.

ST. COLLETTA, Virgin.

ST. COLLETTA was born at Corbie in 1380, and after a long novitiate of suffering and penance, inspired by a vision from heaven, and furnished with full powers by Pope Benedict XIII., she began the reform of the third Order of St. Clara. Her zeal was tried by the most painful persecutions. She was foully abused and calumniated by her enemies, but endured all their insults with holy gentleness. She reformed many houses, and founded others, before her happy death, which took place at Ghent in 1447.

Sow; and look onward, upward,
Where the starry light appears—
Where, in spite of the coward's doubting
Or your own heart's trembling fears,
You shall reap in joy the harvest
You have sown to-day in tears.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

To exercise yourself in practical piety if you would teach successfully to influence others.

MARCH 7.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, Confessor and Doctor.

"THE Angelic Doctor," as St. Thomas Aquinas is appropriately called, was born of the noble family of the Counts of Acqui in the kingdom of Naples. His relatives placed him in early childhood at the monastery of Monte Cassino, and designed him to become in time the abbot of that rich house; but seeing later that the eminent talents of the young nobleman would be apt to raise him to a brilliant position in the world, they used every means to dissuade him from consecrating himself to God in holy religion. St. Thomas, enlightened by divine grace, fled away from their evil and corrupt snares, and entered the Order of St. Dominic. He became the ornament and light not only of that Order but of the whole Church, and died in 1274.

"Thomas, of Me well hast thou written;
What shall thy work reward?"
Swift was the answer fondly given,
"Naught but Thyself, O Lord!"

ELLEN DOWNING.

Favorite Practice.

To assure ourselves that if we choose the better part, it shall not be taken away from us.

MARCH 8.

ST. JOHN OF GOD, Confessor.

IN Portugal, in 1495, was born a poor boy named John, whose early youth was passed in sinful dissipation. He became a soldier, and was still living a disorderly life, when he was converted to God by a manifest proof of the power of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom he had invoked in a moment of extreme peril. He began at once to do penance for the past, and even travelled into Africa in the hope of being martyred. But not attaining his desire, he returned to Spain and devoted his days to the care of the sick. He established an hospital, and later a religious community, known as the Order of Charity. After herculean and heroic labors in the cause of the sick and suffering St. John of God died in 1550.

Thy grace can send its breathings o'er
The spirit dark and lost before,
And fresh'ning all its depths, prepare
For Truth divine to enter there.

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

To recognize our Lord in the persons of the sick and afflicted.

MARCH 9.

ST. FRANCES OF ROME, Widow.

THE beautiful daughter of a wealthy and illustrious family of Rome, St. Frances was born in 1384; and while still very young was married to Lawrence de Pontians, with whom she lived in most happy and harmonious union for forty years. Her beauty was surpassed only by her loveliness of character. She fulfilled with holy fervor her duties as a wife and mother; dressed with great simplicity; and preferred prayer and good works to worldly entertainments and spectacles. Her charming example induced many noble houses to model their rule of life on hers. When Lawrence de Pontians died, she retired to the religious congregation of the Oblates, which she had founded, and died there in 1440.

Life is only bright when it proceedeth
Towards a truer, deeper Life above;
Human love is sweetest when it leadeth
To a more divine and perfect Love.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

A sweet and affable fulfilment of little every-day duties.

THE FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE.

IN the year 220, whilst the cruel Licinius was exhausting his fury against the followers of Christ, forty soldiers of the garrison at Sebaste refused to join their pagan comrades in offering sacrifice to the idols. They were tortured, therefore, by fire and sword, and at last, remaining steadfast, were stripped naked and thrown into an icy pool, within sight of a bath of warm water. While the pagan keeper kept guard over the sufferers he saw angels hovering in the air above them, bearing, however, only *thirty-nine* crowns. The man wondered at the vision, but one of the intended martyrs, driven to apostasy by his torments, rushed out of the icy water into the warm bath close at hand, and expired, poor wretch, on the instant. The keeper immediately took the place of the apostate; and all persevering during that awful night, the next day were condemned to perish at the stake.

"Christ, my God! I believe!" he said,
"Let *me* suffer in his stead!"
Then the long cold hours passed; . . .
But when morning mastered night,
Forty martyrs of Sebaste
Wore in heaven their crowns of light.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To "hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

March 11.

ST. EULOGIUS, Priest and Martyr.

ST. EULOGIUS was born in Cordova in the ninth century, and belonged to one of the first families of that city. As he directed an ecclesiastical school in his native place when the Moors (who governed Spain at the time) began a violent persecution of the Christians, Eulogius was cast into prison with many others. During his captivity he composed an "Exhortation to Martyrdom," which was of great value, and sensibly strengthened the faith of the confessors. He was released from prison on account of his noble blood; but as he used his liberty only to continue his efforts in inciting the Christians to martyrdom, he was again arrested and beheaded in 859.

And, as a bird each fond endearment tries
To tempt her new-fledged offspring to the skies,
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,
Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

Favorite Practice.

To counsel the doubtful; and "let him teach, that can teach."

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope and Martyr.

THIS celebrated Pope and Doctor of the Church was born at Rome about the year 540. He early renounced the advantages of illustrious birth, and consecrated his great gifts to God in holy religion. He was forced, however, to quit his retirement at the command of Pope Pelagius II., by whom he was made cardinal and sent to the Eastern court on a difficult mission. St. Gregory was afterwards elected to succeed Pope Pelagius, but, filled with a sense of his unworthiness, he fled away, and had to be compelled to accept the dignity. He wrought, in his high office, a wonderful work against numerous heresies and schisms. He brought about the conversion of England; and, besides composing many learned and pious works, he reformed the chant and liturgy of the Church. He was accustomed to style himself, in all humility, "the Servant of the servants of God." His death occurred in 604.

"Servant of servants"! That is the name
Falleth the fittest when they call;
Jesus, my Master, bore the same,
Though He be Sovereign Lord of all.

MRS. MARGARET J. PRESTON.

Favorite Practice.

To flee, instead of courting, honors, remembering that he who exalteth himself shall be humbled.

MARCH 13.

ST. NICEPHORUS, Bishop.

ST. NICEPHORUS was patriarch of Constantinople in 806, and was zealously opposed to the sect known as the Iconoclasts. This zealous opposition drew upon him the angry persecution of the emperor Leo, the Armenian; and finding that the holy patriarch remained firm in his reverence for the sacred images, Leo banished him to a monastery, where he spent the last fourteen years of his life, happy to suffer disgrace for the faith, and employing his time in composing several books in its defence. He died in 828. The Greeks celebrate the feast of St. Nicephorus on June 2d, but the Latin Church on the 13th of March.

Better to live despised and poor
Than guilt's eternal stings endure;
The future smile of God shall cure
The wound of earthly woes.
From the Portuguese of LUIS DE CAMOËNS.

Favorite Practice.

To endure persecution silently rather than countenance wrong-doing.

March 14.

ST. MATILDA, Widow.

ST. MATILDA was the queen of Germany and the wife of Henry surnamed "the Fowler." Her continual alms to the poor were most munificent. She frequently visited them in person, and tended the sick with her own royal hands. In her palace she watched over her retainers with maternal tenderness, instructing them and aiding them in their duties. Her bearing was characterized by a mingled majesty and mildness which charmed both the high and the lowly. On the death of her husband, her ungrateful sons robbed her of all her possessions. Her rights were restored to her in time, but she ultimately retired to a convent, where she died in 968.

A perfect woman nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort, to command;
And yet a spirit, still and bright,
With something of an angel-light.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Favorite Practice.

To instruct the ignorant.

MARCH 15.

ST. LONGINUS, Martyr.

ACCORDING to an ancient tradition, St. Longinus was the Roman centurion who cried out at the death of our Lord, "Verily, this was the Son of God!" And, on the authority of some writers, he is said to have been the one who pierced our Lord's divine Side with the lance. It is further related that Longinus, being of defective vision, was straightway healed of his infirmity by some drops of the Precious Blood and water which then fell upon his eyes. Thus converted, and beginning to announce the Gospel in Cappadocia, Longinus was followed to his abode by the soldiers of Pilate. He knew by inspiration that they had come to arrest him; but he entertained them most hospitably, and, after serving them in person, made himself known to them. They beheaded him forthwith on the spot.

A blind knight, men called Longias,
With a speare approached unto my Soverain,
Launsing His side full piteously, alas!
That His precious Heart he clave in twain.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Favorite Practice.

To imitate the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Its forgiveness of injuries.

March 16.

ST. ABRAHAM, Hermit.

THE anchorite Abraham had sold all his vast possessions and distributed the proceeds to the poor, before he buried himself in a hermitage near Edessa, in Mesopotamia. He was drawn out of his retreat to be consecrated bishop of a town in the vicinity, whose inhabitants were pagans. He converted these people, by the most laborious efforts, to the true faith, and was thrice on the eve of martyrdom. Then, once more, he withdrew into solitude, and there remained until the sad news reached him that a beloved niece was leading an abandoned life. St. Abraham quitted his cell and went in quest of the lost lamb of the fold. After two years' pilgrimage, he discovered the unhappy object of his search, and succeeded in restoring her to the grace of God and to a life of austere penance. St. Abraham died peacefully in 370, or thereabouts.

Hearts that are great are always lone,
They never will manifest their best;
Their greatest greatness is unknown:
Earth knows a little—God, the rest.

FATHER RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

To sacrifice our optional practices of devotion to the necessities of the souls of others.

MARCH 17.

ST. PATRICK, Apostle of Ireland.

ST. PATRICK was early trained in Christian virtue in the bosom of a wealthy family in Britain. In his youth he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he suffered, by turns, hunger, cold, and ill treatment. He endured all with heroic courage and gave himself up to the exercise of fervent prayer. Having regained his liberty, he hastened to a monastery in France, where he sedulously qualified himself for his future apostolate. When fully prepared he made his way to Rome, and besought the Holy Father to send him as missionary to Ireland. The Pope gladly consented, consecrated him bishop, and sent him forth with other evangelical laborers to the land of his bondage. For thirty years St. Patrick labored in his beloved mission, and, with incredible toil, zeal, and devotion, converted almost the whole of Ireland to the Christian faith. The great apostle expired joyfully about the year 364.

Greater than Israel have thy people been;
Greater than Moses, gracious Patrick, thou,
For greater sorrow have no people seen,
And so resignèd did no people bow
Unto God's will.

MAURICE F. EGAN.

Favorite Practice.

By prayer and frequentation of the sacraments to increase within our souls the purity of faith.

MARCH 18.

ST. EDWARD, King and Martyr.

ST. EDWARD was a descendant of Alfred the Great, and the son of Edgar of England. He was of a confiding and generous nature, and persevered in great innocence of life. In the year 978 he was basely stabbed in the back at the instigation of his treacherous step-mother Elfrida, in the village of Corvesgate. His corpse was ignominiously hidden out of sight, and his enemies seemed for the nonce to be triumphant; but a celestial light shone around the spot where the martyr was interred, and all who came to it ailing were healed of their infirmities. These marvels eventually led to the conversion of the wicked Elfrida. St. Edward's body was exhumed, and he was buried with great honor in the convent at Shaftesbury.

For death the pure life saves,
And life all pure is love; and love can reach
From heaven to earth, and nobler lessons teach
Than those by mortals read.

J. BOYLE O'REILLY.

Favorite Practice.

To trust to the power of God to manifest the innocence of His children.

ST. JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ST. JOSEPH, a lineal descendant of the house of David, was ordained by God to be the spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and the foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The dignity of these two offices sufficiently indicates the sublime sanctity of the one who was chosen to fill them. The Scriptures tell us he was "a just man," which, in the Inspired Word, is the epitome of all holiness. After his espousals to Mary in the Temple, he took her to Nazareth, where he supported her and (in time) the Divine Infant by his labor as a carpenter. On the return of the Holy Family from Egypt, St. Joseph continued to live with the Blessed Mother and her Divine Son at Nazareth, until his happy death in their sweet company, which took place some time before our Lord began His public mission. In our own day Pope Pius IX. has declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church.

Well has the Christian artist painted thee,
St. Joseph, in thy twofold dignity;
Thy right arm bears aloft the Infant God,
Thy left is resting on the wondrous rod
Which blossomed into lilies—type of One
Whose virgin womb gave birth to Virgin Son!

FATHER BRIDGETT, C.SS.R

Favorite Practice.

To implore daily through the powerful intercession of St. Joseph the grace of a holy and happy death.

ST. CUTHBERT, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. CUTHBERT was a little peasant, who, in the seventh century, kept sheep in the valley of the Tweed, near Melrose. The monastery of Melrose was then presided over by the holy St. Aidan; and directed, it is said, by angels, the young Cuthbert sought out the abbot, and was carefully instructed by him in the holy Scriptures. On the death of Aidan, the shepherd boy became one of the monks of Melrose. He developed great powers of oratory, and converted innumerable souls in that region. Seeking a more solitary retreat after his arduous apostolate at Melrose, St. Cuthbert removed to Landisfarne. He lived the life of a hermit on an island on the coast of Northumberland, and later was created bishop of Landisfarne. In that see he exhibited such gracious examples of virtue that he was venerated and loved by all; and dying the death of a saint, his shrine at Durham became a place of pilgrimage in the north of England.

Thy grave shall be a blessed shrine,
Adorned with Nature's brightest wreath
Each glowing season shall combine
Its incense there to breathe;
And oft upon the midnight air
Shall viewless harps be murmuring there.

MRS. HEMANS.

Favorite Practice.

To spread devotion to the shrines of the saints.

MARCH 21.

ST. BENEDICT, Abbot.

ABOUT the year 480 the great St. Benedict was born of a noble race in the little town of Norcia in the duchy of Spoleto. In his boyhood he studied literature and science at Rome; but seeing the corruptions of the age, and especially of his fellow-students, he fled away to a cave among the rocks of Subiaco, where he devoted himself to prayer and severe penance. Here (being joined by numerous disciples) he was instrumental in founding twelve monasteries. The zealous saint journeyed later to Monte Cassino, converted the idolaters there, and, high upon the mountain, laid the foundation of his famous religious community, the Order of St. Benedict. His sister, St. Scholastica, was the first Benedictine nun. After exerting a humanizing influence over Totila, king of the Goths, St. Benedict died happily at Monte Cassino on March 21, 543.

More than thirteen centuries ago,
Benedict, fleeing from the gates of Rome,
A youth disgusted with its vice and woe,
Sought in these mountain solitudes a home.
He founded here his Convent and his Rule
Of prayer and work, and counted work as prayer;
The pen became a clarion, and his school
Flamed like a beacon in the midnight air.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To so purify the intention that our daily labor may become a perpetual prayer.

ST. CATHERINE OF SWEDEN, Virgin.

ST. CATHERINE was the daughter of the famous St. Bridget of Sweden, the princess whose virtues so brightly illumined the fourteenth century and shed a glory over the royal house to which she belonged. Such a mother could not fail in her maternal duties, and Catherine was early trained to piety by her saintly parent. Obliged to marry in obedience to her father's commands, Catherine was so happy as to inspire her husband with her own love of continence; and after her nuptials she went to join her mother in Rome, to visit the tombs of the Apostles. Here her piety and virtue were destined to endure many trials and temptations; and the noble young woman, but for St. Bridget's prayers and vigorous efforts, would doubtless have been hopelessly led astray by the spirit of the world. Having passed through this fiery ordeal, however, triumphantly, St. Catherine accompanied her mother to the Holy Land and remained there, emulating St. Bridget's heroic example until her death in 1382.

But wait when the trial is o'er,
And take thy heart again;
For as gold is tried by fire,
So a heart must be tried by pain!

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

To cultivate with prayer a continual self-distrust

MARCH 23.

ST. BENEDICT, the Solitary.

SUPPORTING himself by the labor of his hands, and giving himself continually to prayer, a pious solitary named Benedict lived in the sixth century in a hermitage in the Campagna, about twelve leagues from Rome. An emissary of Totila, chief of the Goths, having discovered the hermit about the year 543, urged him to apostatize and become an Arian. Benedict rejected the proposal with horror. The Goths, being then masters of Italy, in revenge set fire to the poor little hut of the saint. The flames raged around the spot, but the hermitage remained unhurt. Then the heretics, exasperated, seized the holy hermit and cast him into a glowing furnace. The next day when they opened the door of the furnace, to their utter surprise they beheld St. Benedict within, perfectly safe and sound.

For this amid his daily toil
He poured his warmest aspirations,
And kept his heart from sinful soil
With force of holy meditations.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To daily beseech of God that faith which, as St. Paul says, "conquereth kingdoms, quencheth the violence of fire."

March 24.

ST. GABRIEL, Archangel.

ONE of the Seven Spirits who stand before the throne of God, St. Gabriel is especially dear to us as the Angel of the Incarnation. In the Old Testament he was sent to Daniel to announce the return of the Jews from captivity. In the Hebrew tradition Gabriel was the guardian of the celestial treasury. He is said to have foretold the birth of Samson, and also to have announced to Joachim the birth of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. But the New Testament plainly declares that Gabriel was sent to the high priest Zacharias to make known to him the approaching birth of St. John the Baptist; and six months later (on the authority of the same Inspired Word) "the Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Ghost." Gabriel is supposed by some to have been the guardian angel of the Mother of God.

Spirit of might! O Gabriel, display
Thy matchless power against our ancient foes;
Visit those sacred temples where we pray;
'Twas at thy potent word those temples rose;
Thou wert the herald of *His* future birth
Whose worship raised these shrines throughout the earth.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently repeat with St. Gabriel, "Ave Maria, gratia plena!"

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

AND the angel being come in, said to her, Hail full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she had heard, she was troubled at his saying. . . . . And the angel said to her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father: and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. And Mary said to the angel, How shall this be done, because I know not man? And the angel, answering, said to her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: And therefore, also, the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."—ST. LUKE i. 26–36.

As high turrets for their airy steep
Require foundations in proportion deep,
And lofty cedars as far upward shoot
As to the nether heavens they drive their root;
So low did her secure foundations lie;
She was not humble, but Humility.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

A reverential recitation of the "Angelus" morning, noon, and night.

ST. IRENÆUS, Bishop and Martyr.

AT that period when the edict of the emperor Diocletian was working terrible havoc among the persecuted Christians, St. Irenæus was bishop of Sirmich, in Pannonia. Apprehended for the faith, he was brought before Probus, governor of the province, and was alternately threatened and cajoled in order to induce him to sacrifice to the idols. Refusing to apostatize, he was first scourged and then sentenced to be beheaded, and his body to be cast into the river. The prayer of the martyr before his execution was: "I thank Thee, my God, for having deigned to let me suffer death for the glory of Thy name, and for the safe-guarding of the Christian people of Sirmich. Vouchsafe to receive me in Thy mercy, and by my example fortify Thy people in the faith."

Except a kernel of wheat
Fall into the earth and die,
It abideth ever alone.
But *this* one fell and died:
And *many* from one seed sown
Were raised and glorified.

EDWARD HYDE.

Favorite Practice.

To be impressed with the necessity of setting a good example to those around us.

March 27.

ST. JOHN, the Hermit.

THIS pious solitary led a long life of prayer and austerity in the recesses of a mountain in the Thebaid near the town of Lycopolis. Only twice in the week would he receive the food brought to him by the faithful; and in return for that alms he conversed awhile with his visitors, and instructed them in the way of salvation. He was favored with the gift of miracles and of prophecy, and announced to Theodosius his victories over the enemies of the Church. He died towards the year 395, having lived to the venerable age of ninety. The signal graces bestowed upon St. John are attributed to his heroic practice of holy obedience which he manifested in his long submission to another hermit, chosen as his master at the outset of his eremitical career.

Great may he be who can command
And rule with just and tender sway;
Yet is diviner wisdom taught
Better by him who can obey.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

A sweet obedience to superiors both spiritual and temporal.

ST. GUNTRAN, King and Confessor.

ST. GUNTRAN, after the death of Clothaire I., the son of Clovis, became heir to the crowns of Burgundy and Orleans. Exposed to the animosity of his brothers, Caribert and Sigebert, and to the malice of his sisters-in-law, Fredegunda and Brunchaut (who even attempted to assassinate him), the good king Guntran knew only how to return good for evil. As a Christian ruler and father, his reign was marked with an indefatigable zeal, and a tender mercy. He was sweetly accessible to the poor and unfortunate, and endured all calamities with a singular patience and strength of soul. In time of famine the holy king gave away all he possessed, his gold and silver, his jewels and costly furniture, and even his royal raiment, in order to procure food for his people. St. Guntran died in 593.

My conscience is my crown,
Contented though s my rest;
My heart is happy in itself,
My bliss is in my breast.

FATHER SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To sacrifice some necessaries, even, to give to the suffering poor.

SS. JONAS and BARACHISUS, Martyrs.

IN the eighth year of his reign, and about the year 327, Sapor, king of Persia, decreed a violent persecution against the Christians. At Hubaham a number of the persecuted brethren were cast into prison; and two brothers, named Jonas and Barachisus (who were Christians of the town of Bethasa), anxious to succor and console the confessors of Christ, exposed themselves to certain death by hastening to Hubaham and visiting the prisoners. After nine of the confessors were martyred, the heroic brothers were, in their turn denounced, and tortured to death; Jonas being crushed in two in a pressing-machine, and Barachisus stifled under a mask of boiling pitch which was poured upon his face.

They shine like Moses in the face,
And teach our hearts without the rod,
That God's grace is the only grace,
And all grace is the grace of God.

COVENTRY PATMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To manifest sincere love for thy neighbor, not in word, but in deed.

ST. JOHN CLIMACHUS, Abbot.

ST. JOHN obtained the surname of Climachus from the spiritual work which he composed for the monks of Mount Sinai, and which was entitled "The Mystic Ladder." In it he taught the art of raising one's self to God by thirty successive degrees, the name Climachus signifying steps or degrees. John was, indeed, well fitted to discourse of the progress of the interior life, as he had devoted himself to the cultivation of it from his sixteenth year. An anchorite from that early age, he was chosen superior-general of the monks of Mount Sinai; but after holding that office only three years, he resigned it in order to enter again his beloved solitude and give himself more freely to prayer and contemplation. It was in this retirement that, yielding to the request of the religious who were averse to losing the benefit of his pious direction, he wrote the "Mystic Ladder." He died in solitude in 606, being more than eighty years of age.

But let me often to these solitudes
Retire, and in Thy presence reassure
My feeble virtue. Here its enemies,
The passions, at Thy plainer footsteps shrink,
And tremble, and are still.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

If circumstances permit, to make a spiritual retreat annually.

March 31.

ST. BALBINA, Virgin.

ST. BALBINA was the daughter of a Roman knight named Quirinus, in the second century of the Christian era. The holy Pope St. Alexander being in prison, Quirinus, although a pagan, went to visit the suffering Pontiff, and confided to him his anxiety about his young daughter, Balbina, who was of a marriageable age, but was disfigured by a hideous scrofula on her neck. The Pope replied that if the chains he then wore were placed upon Balbina's throat she would be cured of her malady. The maiden being brought and touched with the Pontiff's chains, was, indeed, immediately healed. As a consequence of the miracle, Quirinus, with his daughter and family, received baptism, and adhered so zealously to the faith that the former was martyred under the emperor Aurelian. St. Balbina continued to carry on her father's works of mercy, until she herself was denounced. But although brought before the emperor, her life was spared, and she returned, a martyr in desire, to devote her days thenceforward to visiting the sick and feeding the poor. This occurred about the year 167.

. . . Onward thou shalt go,
Bearing thy own and cheering others' woe;
Treading the path where guiding angels lead,
And scattering on thy way the priceless seed
Which, sown in tears, is harvested in joy.

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

Filial devotedness, whose reward is a long and peaceful life.

April.

APRIL *stands and weeps:* "*Ah! me,*
Ne'er was sorrow like to thine,—
Mother, 'neath the Cross divine!
Let me stand and mourn with thee."

E. C. D.

April 1.

ST. HUGH, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. HUGH was chosen by the Council of Avignon as bishop of Grenoble, after having given great edification by his mortified, retired, and prayerful life as canon of Valence. He was obliged to accept the episcopal charge against his inclinations, and after discharging his sacred duties for the space of a few years, he withdrew from his office and entered a religious house at Chaise Dieu. The Pope, Gregory VII., however, commanded him to sacrifice his own wishes to the call of duty, and St. Hugh was forced to resume the mitre. He died happily in 1132, having been favored with the gift of miracles both before and after his death.

. . . Shut in my crypt by night, by day,
Breathing His peace with every breath,
I was content to wear away,
Tasting a calm as sweet as death;
Yet they have bidden me forth to bear
Mitre and stole and sacred staff.

MRS. MARGARET J. PRESTON.

Favorite Practice.

To sacrifice our own lights to the judgment and will of our superiors.

ST. FRANCIS OF PAULA, Confessor.

BORN in Calabria, in or about the year 1416, St. Francis of Paula was the founder of the Order of "Minims," so called because they were taught to regard themselves as the lowest and least of all men. St. Francis presented to his brethren a singular example of austerity. His diet was herbs, eaten but once a day, and that after sunset. He slept on the bare earth, with a stone for a pillow; wore a hair-shirt; and desired his disciples to go barefoot, and observe a severe and continual Lent. He also enjoined on them to wear coarse garments and abstain from the use of all gold and silver vessels. Sent for from France to wait upon the king, Louis XI. in his last illness, St. Francis was instrumental in preparing that monarch to die a holy death. When he himself had completed his seventieth year, he passed to his reward at Plessis-les-Tours in 1488.

. . . As in summer woods, infrequent, towers
A giant oak or poplar overhead,
While all the ground with grass and moss and flowers,
And other tiny tender things is spread;

And as with waving arms the great tree crieth,
"My height, my strength, my glory, Lord, are Thine!"
Softly the little slender herb replieth,
"My fairy blossoms, Lord, are also Thine!"

From "Legend of the Best-Beloved."

Favorite Practice.

To love to be unknown and accounted as nothing.

April 3.

SS. AGAPA and CHIONIA, Martyrs.

IN the year 304, when Diocletian was violently persecuting the Church of Christ, his special aim was to discover and destroy not only the Christian bishops and priests, but the sacred books which they sought to preserve from the fury of the pagans. Agapa and Chionia, two devout sisters, having been entrusted with the care of some of these holy books, fled away with them into the mountains of Thessalonica, where they wandered about, guarding the precious deposit, for a whole year. Apprehended at last, and the books discovered in their possession, they were condemned to be burnt at the stake; but the flames merely stifled them without inflicting other injury on their holy persons.

. . . Books are yours,
Within whose silent chambers treasure lies,
Preserved from age to age, more precious far
Than the accumulated store of gold
And orient gems.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Favorite Practice.

To preserve a deep reverence for the Holy Scriptures.

April 4.

ST. ISIDORE, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. ISIDORE, in the seventh century of the Christian era, was coadjutor-bishop to his brother, St. Leander, at that epoch archbishop of Seville. Isidore possessed a remarkable intellect which had been highly cultivated, and he rendered efficient aid to his holy brother in the great work of converting the Visigoths from the errors of Arianism. When he succeeded St. Leander in the archiepiscopal charge, he completed the great work both had begun, and presided with marked distinction at the Councils of Seville and Toledo. He was the author of several learned and instructive treatises, and he also reformed the liturgical books, so that fourteen years after his death the Council of Toledo decreed him the title of "The Excellent Doctor." In his last moments St. Isidore desired to be carried to the church. There he received the sacraments most fervently, and shortly after expired, in 636, having beforehand distributed all he possessed to the poor.

Now through the land his care of souls he stretched,
And like a primitive apostle preached;
Still cheerful, ever constant to his call,
By many followed, loved by most, admired by all.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

A careful exercise of the talents God has given you to be used in His service.

April 5.

ST. VINCENT FERRER, Confessor.

ST. VINCENT FERRER was born at Valence in 1357, and became a Dominican monk at the age of seventeen years. His superiors, discerning his capability, entrusted him in time with the great work of the missions, in which his labors were crowned with marvellous success. In Spain alone the holy missionary converted more than twenty-five thousand Jews and eighteen thousand Moors. He travelled over France, Italy, Germany, England, and the Low Countries as apostolic missionary, everywhere achieving glorious results in the salvation of souls. He always styled himself "the unworthy instrument of God," and kept himself in a continual spirit of recollection, self-abasement, and detachment from all things. He died at Vannes in 1419.

Proud unbelievers heard his voice;
For e'en the Moorish king
Within his fair Granada sought
Christ's messenger to bring.
And soon the haughty Mosiem saw
His Crescent's lurid glare
Grow dim when holy Vincent showed
The Cross of Jesus there.

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To work for God in a profound spirit of humility.

April 6.

ST. CELESTINE I., Pope and Confessor.

N succeeding Pope Boniface I., in the year 422, Pope Celestine found heresy, schisms, and scandals making terrible havoc throughout Christendom. At the instance of St. Augustine he reformed abuses in the African Church; and later, in that of Gaul. The errors of Nestorius were beginning to poison the East, and St. Celestine zealously convoked the Council of Rome and, later, that of Ephesus, which deposed and condemned the heresiarch. "My vigilance," the saintly pontiff wrote to the bishop of Gaul, "is not limited by space; it extends into every spot;" and true to his words, St. Celestine sent apostolic missionaries to carry the Gospel into all those countries where it had not yet been preached. He died in 432.

But come and see the bleak and barren mountains
Thick to their tops with roses; come and see
Leaves on the dry, dead tree.

From the Spanish of Lupercio Leonardo Argensola.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently reflect on these words: "Blessed are the servants whom the Lord at His coming shall find watching."

ST. APHRAATES, Hermit.

DURING the reign of the emperor Valens, towards the year 375, a pious solitary named Aphraates lived in a hermitage at some distance from Edessa, in Mesopotamia. He divided his time between prayer and manual labor, and was a zealous opponent of the Arians who infested the town of Edessa. He boldly preached the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and upheld by miracles the truth of His doctrines. He effected cures upon the infirm, which made him very popular; but his delicate modesty was such that he sedulously averted his gaze from persons of the opposite sex so that (it was said) he never actually beheld a woman. The exact date of his death is not known.

Virgins who walk a spotless band,
And hermits from the desert-land,
Who dwell above the stars, prepare
Celestial seats with us to share.

Placare Christi Servuiis.

Favorite Practice.

To avoid the occasion of sin, keeping a special guard over the eyes.

April 8.

ST. EDESIUS, Martyr.

ST. EDESIUS was the brother of St. Appian, the martyr of Cesarea, and had been forced to embrace Christianity by the emptiness and barrenness of pagan philosophy, to which he had originally been devoted. His vigorous defence of the faith subjected him several times to exile and hard labor in the mines; but towards the year 237 Edesius made his way to Egypt, where the persecution of Maximinus was then in progress. The outrageous insults and cruelty lavished upon his persecuted brethren in that region so filled Edesius with righteous indignation that he sought out the prefect Hierocles and boldly explained the purpose of his visit. Hierocles condemned him to be scourged and tortured in many ways, and finally ordered the body of the martyr to be hurled into the sea.

. . . Then,
How low on earth
God's glory fell
On every side:
Chased from the land,
His servants fled,—
Their wisdom scorned;
Much grief to him
Whose bosom glowed
With fervent love
Of great Creation's Lord!

CÆDMON.

Favorite Practice.

A calm but persistent warfare against human respect.

ST. ACACIUS, Bishop.

THIS holy man was bishop of Amida, in Mesopotamia, during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. At that time in the town of Amida were seven thousand Persian prisoners who had been captured in battle by the Romans, and were perishing with hunger and misery. St. Acacius, touched with compassion for these poor creatures (although they were pagans and the Christian religion was then persecuted in Persia), conceived the holy design of ransoming them and sending them back to their own country. He impoverished himself in order to effect this noble end, and even disposed of the sacred vessels and costly ornaments of the churches for that purpose. The ransomed slaves returning from exile, published far and wide the unequalled generosity of Bishop Acacius. The Persian king was so touched at this that he asked and obtained leave to see Acacius; and thenceforth he directed that all persecutions should cease in his kingdom. The Church of Christ accordingly took root there and flourished wonderfully.

For not to hoard the golden spoil
Of earthly mines, we bow the knee—
Our labor is the saintly toil
Whose hire is Eternity.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To strive to do good to those who persecute you.

April 10.

ST. MACARIUS, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. MACARIUS was the nephew of Macarius the Elder, who was archbishop of Antioch. His holy uncle trained him in the practice of piety; and at the death of that pious man, St. Macarius (at his suggestion) was reluctantly obliged to accept the patriarchal chair. He believed himself utterly unworthy of that great dignity, and his future life was animated with a profound spirit of humility and the gift of fervent prayer. On one occasion he suffered grievous ill treatment at the hands of unbelievers; but was freed from their cruel devices by the agency of an angel. He wrought many remarkable miracles; and at Ghent, in the year 1012, he caused the cessation of a plague, prophesying at the same time that he himself would be the last victim to die of it: which prediction was fulfilled. He died in 1012.

By force I live, in will I wish to die,
In plaint I pass the length of lingering days;
Free would my soul from mortal body fly,
And tread the track of death's desired ways;
Life is but lost, where death is deemèd gain,
And loathèd pleasures breed displeasing pain.

REV. ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To convince yourself that nothing so much adorns an exalted position as a modest and humble acceptance of its honors.

ST. LEO THE GREAT, Pope and Doctor.

ST. LEO, justly called the Great, ascended the papal throne in 440. Scarcely was he elected when Attila, the triumphant destroyer of the town of Aquileia, marched forward to attack Rome. St. Leo, at the head of a Roman deputation, went forth to meet him. When Attila saw the pontiff, he recoiled as if in fear; and being afterwards questioned on the subject, he told his soldiers that he had beheld at St. Leo's side a majestic and venerable personage who threatened Attila with a sword, and prevented him from passing forward. It was believed to be the apostle St. Peter, who thus protected his See from insult. St. Leo, indeed, cherished a special devotion to St. Peter; and when Genseric, later, intended to destroy Rome by flames, St. Leo watched and prayed for forty nights at the tomb of St. Peter; and the city was spared. The saintly Pope died in 461, after having vigorously opposed heresy and accomplished many great works for the glory of God.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of Time.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

A great confidence in the protection and assistance of the Saints.

April 12.

ST. SABAS, Martyr.

ST. SABAS was a Christian Goth, at a time when the greater part of his fellow-countrymen were pagans. A prince of his nation, named Athanaric, having suffered defeat at the arms of the Romans, revenged himself in turn upon his Christian subjects. Sabas was counselled to sacrifice to the false gods; but he preferred death to apostasy. After long and agonizing tortures, during which he remained heroically inflexible, the blessed martyr was heard to cry out, "It is enough, complete your cruel butchery!" This so exasperated the pagans that they hurled him headlong into a river, whence he was drawn out dead. This occurred about the year 372.

God hath marked each sorrowing day,
And numbered every secret tear,
And heaven's long age of bliss shall pay
For all His children suffer here.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

An heroic fidelity to sacred convictions.

April 13.

ST HERMINGILD, Martyr.

ST. HERMINGILD was the son of Leuvigild, king of the Visigoths. Having wedded a Christian princess, Indegunda, daughter of King Sigebert of France, his good wife was instrumental in converting Hermingild to the true faith. When the king of the Visigoths, however, learned of that conversion, he gave way to such fierce rage and to such terrible threats that Hermingild and his devoted friends took to flight to escape Leuvigild's vengeance. They were pursued by the warriors of the latter, and the Christian prince was captured and cast into a dungeon. There he was very cruelly treated; and when Easter-Day came, Leuvigild sent an Arian bishop to administer communion to the noble prisoner. Though loaded with chains, Hermingild refused with horror to receive the heretical rite; and the rage of Leuvigild being thus freshly excited, the unnatural father sent an executioner to the prison, who split the martyr's skull in twain with one stroke of the axe. The date of Hermingild's martyrdom was A.D. 586.

We see the shining of the martyr's crown,
His love's red glow, his faith unbroken, clear;
The heavenly peace that crowned his day's last strife,
While love-wrought legends veil his inner life.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

Acts of reparation to the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

SS. TIBURTIUS, VALERIAN, and MAXIMUS, Martyrs.

STS. TIBURTIUS AND VALERIAN were two wealthy young noblemen of Rome in the reign of Alexander Severus. They were both pagans, but lived virtuously according to the law of nature. Valerian, who was a senator of Rome, was espoused to the illustrious St. Cecilia. When the marriage-ceremony was performed, however, he learned, for the first time, that his Christian bride was secretly bound by a vow of chastity. The young senator, possessed a noble nature. He permitted his wife to discourse so sweetly and wisely of heavenly things, that he and his brother Tiburtius were converted and baptized, and became the chaste auxiliaries of St. Cecilia in all works of piety and mercy. The prefect, Almachius, hearing of the wonderful life led by this Christian family, sent for Cecilia and her husband, and commanded them to renounce their practices of holy charity. As they remained firm, Valerian and Tiburtius were cast into prison and committed to the charge of a pagan centurion named Maximus, whom they converted to the faith. All three, having refused to sacrifice to Jupiter, thus gloriously won the crown of martyrdom.

Palms in their hands, crowns on their brows,
Won from the tears of Time,
They shall go with us through the gates,
Transfigured and sublime!

From "Domus Dei."

Favorite Practice.

To exert a sweet influence over others in the practice of piety.

ST. PATERNUS, Bishop.

IN the district of Vannes, in the year 490, was born St. Paternus, who in his youth travelled into Britain to announce the Gospel of Christ. He there became a monk, was superior of the monasteries of Wales, and founded many religious houses. By a mission into Ireland he established peace among the inhabitants there, and quieted the bloody feuds which prevailed. He then made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (with St. David of Wales), where the patriarch, John III., consecrated Paternus bishop. Returning to his native place, the newly consecrated prelate was chosen bishop of Vannes; but finding that some dissension arose in consequence, among the bishops of the province, St. Paternus meekly withdrew from his diocese, after some years of service. He retired to a solitary place in France, where he died a holy death about the year 557.

Though it break your heart in twain,
Though the burden crush you down,
Close your lips and hide your pain:
First the cross, and then the crown.

FATHER RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

Frequent reflection upon the beatitude: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

April 16.

St. Encratida, Virgin and Martyr.

IN the fourth century (or the latter part of the third) a native of Portugal endeavored to force his daughter Encratida, a Christian virgin, into a marriage dangerous to her faith. As she earnestly desired to belong to God alone, the maiden fled away to Saragossa and hid herself there. But a violent persecution against the Christians broke out in that city in 304. Because of her great sympathy for the confessors and martyrs, Encratida was suspected and denounced to the prefect Dacian. He summoned her before him, when she openly declared her faith and reproached the tyrant for his cruelty. Thereupon she was bound to a wheel and her tender flesh flayed from her bones. After this terrible torture, remaining constant to Christ, she was thrown into a dungeon, where, soon after, she joyfully expired.

Yes! love has wrought, and love alone,
The victories all,—beneath, above;
And earth and heaven shall shout as one,
The all-triumphant song of love!

From the Portuguese of Sister Violante Do Ceo.

Favorite Practice.

To sacrifice everything rather than peril faith or purity.

April 17.

ST. STEPHEN, Abbot.

ST. STEPHEN was the third abbot of Citeaux. He was animated with a remarkable spirit of evangelical poverty and an implicit trust in the assistance and resources of Divine Providence. It was his delight to gather around him the shepherds of the neighboring parts, and, after instructing them in the truths of salvation, he often distributed to them in alms all that the monastery contained. "What stores are needful," he used to say, "to those to whom a roof of thatch, a garment of coarse stuff, and a little bread, and water from the brook, are sufficient." This generosity to the poor met with its unfailing reward; for the providence of God, on which he so confidingly relied, always came to his aid in any necessity. The holy abbot died in 1134.

. . . Sweet are all things when we learn to prize them,
Not for their sake, but His who grants them or denies them.

AUBREY DE VERE.

Favorite Practice.

A childlike trust in the providence of God.

April 18.

ST. APOLLONIUS, Martyr.

IN the reign of the emperor Commodus, Apollonius, a learned and eloquent senator of Rome, was converted to the faith of Christ by a profound study of the Holy Scriptures and by frequent intercourse with the Pope, St Eleutherius. Devoting himself to deeds of charity, Apollonius was denounced to the Senate by one of his own slaves. When summoned before that body, the Christian patrician made a most noble and impassioned defence of Christianity, which produced such a powerful impression on his auditors that they were almost persuaded to renounce the false gods. The prefect Perennis, fearing the results of that marvellous eloquence, hastened to pass sentence against Apollonius. To the indignation even of the pagans, the noble confessor was condemned to public torture and then put to death.

His words were frank and open;
He spoke truth, fearing no man.
Like a lion he sat among princes,
Like a lamb he walked among the needy.

From the ancient Rhyme of St. Anne.

Favorite Practice.

To bear generous testimony to the faith of Christ in deed and word.

April 19.

ST. LEO IX., Pope.

BRUNO, bishop of Toul, belonged to the illustrious family of the Counts of Apsburg, and he was elected Pope at the Diet of Worms in 1049, taking the name of Leo IX. He was noted for his virtue and wisdom, and possessed great patience, courage, and strength of soul; but his humility was so deep that he deemed himself unworthy to ascend the papal throne. He entered his protest to that effect before the Assembly; but when they refused to grant him a release, he appealed to the people of Rome, barefoot, and in the garb of a pilgrim. The general voice declared for his election, and he was forced to accept the great responsibility. Never could choice have been more fortunate. The pontiff tenderly loved the poor, and made himself one of them. After a useful pontificate of five years, St. Leo slept in the Lord in the year 1054.

His name a great example stands to show
How strangely high endeavors may be blest
Where piety and valor jointly go.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

If honors are forced upon us, to accept them with purity of intention.

April 20.

ST. THEOTIMUS, Bishop.

BISHOP OF THOMIS, in Scythia, St. Theotimus was characterized by a singular prudence, and by that heavenly zeal which is always regulated by a great mildness. He gave large alms to the poor, and he possessed the gift of miracles. At the Council of Chalcedon, which St. Epiphanius convoked in order to condemn, without exception, the writings of Origen, it was St. Theotimus who suggested that, instead of condemning absolutely the works of that learned man, the Fathers should except whatever was good or free from error in those writings. The Council ended by advocating these temperate views. This was in the year 401.

Faith to Thy pure truth resigned,
Prompt to serve a willing mind;
Prudent heart and active hand,
Craft of Satan to withstand;
Evil ever to eschew,
And Thy will, O God, to do.

From the famous Weissenbrunn Hymn.

Favorite Practice.

To gently temper your zeal by prudence.

April 21.

ST. ANSELM, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. ANSELM, in the reign of King William Rufus, was a religious in the monastery of Bec, and taught there polite literature and philosophy. He possessed one of the grandest intellects of his age; and it is said that he should be regarded as the founder of modern philosophy, as he laid down all those principles which were later developed by Malebranche and Descartes. Having been created archbishop of Canterbury, St. Anselm governed his see with inexpressible meekness and firmness. His sympathies were warmly enlisted in the cause of the poor and suffering serfs; and even dumb animals are said to have claimed in their need the pitying tenderness of his gentle heart. He was filled with lively devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and composed treatises in her honor which breathe the sweetest piety. St. Anselm, who has been styled the Modern Augustine, died in 1109.

Sunny hours, in every season,
Wait the innocent,
Those who taste in love and reason
What their God hath sent.

DENIS FLORENCE MCCARTHY.

Favorite Practice.

A helpful compassion for the miseries of others.

St. Albert's College Library

April 22.

SS. ALEXANDER and EPIPODIUS, Martyrs.

THESE two saints were united from their early youth in the purest and closest friendship; and studying under the same master, they manifested a holy emulation in all good and noble deeds. During the persecution of Lucius Verus, Alexander and Epipodius were cast into chains and subjected to various tortures. As they suffered the ordeal bravely together, the judge had them separated, and then tried to work upon the very love they bore each other in order to effect their destruction. He represented to one of them that his friend had already apostatized, and that he, in his turn, would also do well to renounce Christianity. But the noble sufferers could not be deceived by these falsehoods, and persevered with unwavering fidelity. Finally, about the year 165, Epipodius was beheaded, and Alexander expired on the cross.

So love springs up in noble breasts, and there
Has its appointed space,
As heat in the bright flame finds its allotted place.
From the Italian of GUIDO GUINICELLI.

Favorite Practice.

To remember that friendship is only faithful in so far as it is Christian.

April 23.

ST. GEORGE, Martyr.

ST. GEORGE, a native of Cappadocia, was born of noble Christian parents, in the time of the emperor Diocletian. He was a tribune in the army. Ancient legends relate that once, in travelling to join his legion, he came upon a city of Libya called Selene where a monstrous dragon kept the inhabitants in a state of constant terror and intimidation; and St. George, having captured and slain the monster, was thereby instrumental in the conversion of many souls. In Palestine, under the proconsul Dacian, he was denounced as a Christian; and subjected to the most barbarous torments for the space of eight days. He was finally beheaded, about the year 303. He was chosen in a special manner as the chief patron of the English nation at the instance of King Henry V., when that monarch undertook his expedition for regaining France.

Right manfully his cross he bore,
And ran his race of torments sore;
For Thee he poured his life away;
With Thee he lives in endless day.

We then, before Thee bending low,
Entreat Thee, Lord, Thy love to show,
On this the day Thy martyr died,
Who in Thy saints art glorified!

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To combat and overcome the dragon of pride.

April 24.

ST. ROBERT, Abbot.

ST. ROBERT was of the ancient family of the barons of Aurillac. He was canon and treasurer of the church of St. Julian de Brionde, and most tenderly devoted to the cause of the sick poor. He tended their wounds in person, begged alms for them when his own resources were exhausted, and finally founded for their benefit the hospital of Brionde. Then, out of desire for greater opportunities of personal sanctification, he withdrew to the abbey of Cluny. The populace, however, eager to keep him in their midst, brought him back triumphantly to Brionde. But when the occasion offered, St. Robert again fled away into solitude with two soldiers whom he had converted to God, and the Saint and his companions founded the famous Benedictine monastery of Chaise Dieu, where St. Robert died at an advanced age in the year 1007.

Be it ours to meditate
In these calm shades, Thy milder majesty,
And to the beautiful order of Thy works
Learn to conform the order of our lives.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

A visit, when practicable, to the hospitals of the sick poor.

ST. MARK, the Evangelist.

ST. MARK was the disciple and interpreter to St. Peter, who, writing his Gospel at the request of the Christians of Rome, took it with him into Egypt. He first preached at Alexandria, where he founded that Church. Afterwards, being apprehended for the faith of Christ, whilst he was offering up the holy sacrifice of the Mass, St. Mark was bound with cords, dragged upon stones, and shut up in a dungeon, where he was comforted by an angelic vision, and an apparition of our Lord. Finally, after many additional torments at the hands of the infidels, he was called to heaven, in the eighth year of Nero.

Then will he say
That the brightness of the sun
Is darkness
Compared with
That great light
Of God Almighty,
That is to every soul
Eternal without end,
To blessed souls.

From King Alfred's *Metres of Boëthius.*

Favorite Practice.

To recite the Litany of the Saints in order to obtain a blessing on the fruits of the earth.

April 26.

ST. CLETUS, Pope and Martyr.

ST. CLETUS, called also Anacletus, displayed during his whole life a great zeal for the construction of churches, and the conferring of Holy Orders upon worthy subjects. While still a simple priest he founded a church dedicated to St. Peter, who is supposed to have converted and trained him to the sacred ministry. St. Cletus became the second successor of the Prince of the Apostles in the papal charge in the year 76, and suffered martyrdom under the emperor Diocletian in 89. Little is known of the details of his life and death, except what is recorded in the *Pontificale* of Damasus.

A sacred burden is this life ye bear;
Look on it, lift it, bear it solemnly;
Stand up and walk beneath it steadfastly.
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,
But onward, upward, till the goal ye win.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To have a true zeal for the glory of the house of God.

April 27.

ST. ZITA, Virgin.

ST. ZITA was a poor virgin who served as cook in the house of a gentleman of Lucca, Italy, in the thirteenth century. She passed her life in the humblest domestic duties, observing all the obligations of her lowly state with heroic fidelity. She was well tested by the severe ordeals of calumny and contempt; but she endured every trial with singular meekness and patience, and submissively manifested to her enemies the divine magnanimity inspired by the pure love of God. In a word, St. Zita, in imitation of our Blessed Mother, spent her days in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, and was raised at last on the altars of the Church. She died in 1272, and was beatified in 1696.

The lowliest spot whence I can pray to Thee
My Lord, my light, is worth all earth to me;
'Neath Thy all-seeing eye,
Like wild-flower 'neath the sunny sky,
My soul expands triumphant, happy, free!

From the French of EUGÉNIE DE GUÉRIN.

Favorite Practice.

For humility's sake to engage at times in lowly household duties.

April 28.

ST. VITALIS, Martyr.

THIS famous patron saint of Ravenna was one of the converts of St. Peter the Apostle, and served in the army of the emperor Nero. He was the father of Sts. Gervasius and Protasius, whose names are invoked by the Church in the Litany of the Saints. Seeing a Christian martyr led to death whose courage appeared to be sinking, St. Vitalis exhorted him to endure bravely to the end; and when the victim's sufferings were crowned by a happy death, Vitalis carried off the sacred relics and gave them honorable burial. For this he was first tortured and then buried alive. The Church of St. Vitalis at Ravenna was dedicated by St. Eclesias as early as 547.

The deed divine
Is written in characters of gold,
That never shall grow old
But, through all ages,
Burn and shine
With soft effulgence!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To secure Christian burial for the dead.

April 29.

ST. PETER, Martyr.

ST. PETER was born at Verona about the year 1205. His parents and relatives belonged to the heretical sect of the *Cathari*, then prevailing in the north of Italy. Peter, however, was sent to a Catholic school, where he learned the Creed in its orthodox form. For repeating it in that form, he was beaten on his return home. While he was still a boy, the great St. Dominic came to preach at Verona, and, discerning the virtue and sterling faith of the young Peter, gave him the Dominican habit at the age of fifteen. The young novice became an eloquent preacher, and was untiring in his zealous efforts to root out the heresy which had tainted his own family. His holy zeal provoked the bitter enmity of the heretics, and he was waylaid by assassins in 1252, on the road between Como and Milan, and struck with an axe. St. Peter struggled to his knees and strove to trace the word *Credo* on the ground with his own blood; but his assailants again attacked him and completed his martyrdom with a sword.

Fire of heaven's eternal ray,
Gentle and unscorching flame,
Strength in moments of dismay,
Grief's redress and sorrow's balm,
Light thy servant on his way.

From the Spanish of Fra Rodriguez Del Padron, O S.D.

Favorite Practice.

To seal our faith, if need be, with our blood.

April 30.

ST. CATHERINE, OF SIENNA, Virgin.

THE holy virgin of Sienna was born in 1347. Her parents desired her when young to enter the marriage state; but St. Catherine declared that God called her to the state of virginity, and announced that she had already espoused herself to Christ. She was subjected, in consequence, to a sort of petty persecution in her own home. Her trials and sufferings were many and varied. Infirm in health, she tended the poor and sick, and frequently received nothing but insults and calumnies for her heroic labors. But St. Catherine drew from all these afflictions the precious fruits of humility, meekness, and divine love. God honored her with the gift of miracles and favored her with sublime revelations. A poor daughter of St. Dominic, St. Catherine enjoyed the veneration and confidence of the great, as well as of the princes of the Church. She contributed in those troublous days towards re-establishing peace in Italy, and induced Pope Gregory to return to Rome. St. Catherine died at the age of thirty-three years.

So unaffected, so composed a mind;
So firm, so soft, so strong, yet so refined;
Heaven, as its purest gold, by tortures tried:
The saint sustained it, but the woman died.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect that "whoever is strong in faith overcometh the world."

May.

MAY, *among her violets airy,*
Sings exultant hymns of praise:
"All my nights and all my days,
Are thy very own, dear Mary!"

E. C. D

MAY 1.

SS. PHILIP AND JAMES, Apostles.

AFTER St. Philip had converted almost all Scythia to the faith of Christ, being fastened to a cross he was stoned to death, making a glorious end, at Hieropolis, in Asia, A D. 54. St. James, surnamed the Less, who is called our Lord's brother, was the first bishop of Jerusalem, and was deeply reverenced for his eminent sanctity, even by the Jews. But a prejudice was excited against him by the Sanhedrim, convoked by the high-priest Ananias, and being thrown from a pinnacle of the Temple, his thighs were broken. His assailants finally stoned him and wounded him in the head with a fuller's club, and the holy bishop gave up the ghost and was buried near the Temple in the year 63.

Ye prophets and apostles! plead
Before our Judge, and intercede
For sinners, that by tears unfeigned,
His pardoning grace may be obtained.

Placare Christi, Servulis.

Favorite Practice.

Frequent and reverential repetition of the Lord's prayer.

MAY 2.

ST. ATHANASIUS, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. ATHANASIUS was patriarch of Alexandria, and was possessed of a singularly sweet and strong character. Five times was he driven from his diocese by the powerful machinations of the Arians, but he was so inflexible in doctrine that every time he returned, the faith of Christ triumphed afresh. St. Gregory of Nazianzen, in a beautiful eulogy of St. Athanasius, bore eloquent testimony to the mingled gentleness and firmness of his authority, adding that "The enemies of the faith found in him a soul unbending, and his persecutors a victim insensible to their shafts; no human consideration was capable of making him turn aside in favor of injustice." The subject of his eulogy slept the sleep of the just in 375.

With eloquence innate his tongue was armed,
Though harsh the precept, yet the preacher charmed.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

To sweeten disagreeable truths with the honey of affability.

May 3.

THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS.

THE sacred wood upon which our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was crucified and suffered death, was for centuries concealed by the infidels from the veneration of the faithful; but in A.D. 326 St. Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, although a woman of venerable age, made a pilgrimage to Palestine in order to institute a search for the Holy Rood. The princess, having zealously directed certain excavations near the summit of Mount Calvary, finally came upon the true cross, whose authenticity was miraculously proved by the instant cure of a sick woman and the restoration to life of a dead body, after both had been brought in contact with the sacred relic.

O loved and Holy Cross of yore,
Thy sacred wood we all adore.
On thy rough bed my Lord reclined,
Which makes Thee blest to all mankind,
The Saving Cross of Calvary!

VINTON AUGUSTINE GODDARD.

Favorite Practice.

To salute the relic of the True Cross, when permitted to do so.

MAY 4.

ST. MONICA, Widow.

ST. MONICA lived at Hippo in the fourth century. She was united in marriage to a pagan named Patricius, and numbered among her children the great Augustine, afterwards the light and ornament of the Church. But what with the irreligion of her spouse and the disorders of her gifted son (whose youth and early manhood were corrupted with libertinism and heresy), St. Monica's days and nights were passed in prayer and tearful penance for the conversion of those precious souls. After seventeen years Patricius, vanquished by the holy weapons of his patient wife, died the death of a Christian; and, later, Augustine was in his turn, brought back to God. St. Monica had only asked of Heaven that her son might become a Christian; but God, moved by the generous devotion of the mother, granted to her once-erring boy the grace to become also a priest, a bishop, a saint, and doctor of the Church. St. Monica died in 387.

Patience; accomplish thy labor; accomplish thy work of affection:
Sorrow and silence are strong, and patient endurance is God-like.
Therefore accomplish thy labor of love till the heart is made Godlike,
Purified, strengthened, perfected, and rendered more worthy of heaven!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To persevere against all obstacles in praying for the conversion of sinners.

May 5.

ST. PIUS V., Pope and Confessor.

AT the death of Pope Pius IV., the Cardinals being in conclave to elect his successor, St. Charles Borromeo directed the general suffrage in favor of Cardinal Alessandrini, who was therefore chosen to the high dignity, and assumed the name of Pius V. His pontificate fully sustained the wisdom of St. Charles's choice. The Turkish Empire was then in the prime of its power; pirates infested the seas, and the coasts of Italy and Spain were threatened by the unbeliever. The Sovereign Pontiff united the fleets of Christendom, and assigned the command thereof to Don John of Austria. The battle of Lepanto was fought, the Ottoman navy was annihilated, and the cause of Christendom triumphed. When the victory took place Pope Pius was engaged in earnest prayer, and God revealed to him at once the success which crowned the Christian arms. This happened in 1571; and the following year the holy Pontiff died.

All shouted "Glory be to God on high!"
As from a spot adjoining I could hear,
To which with more distinctness came the cry.

DANTE.

Favorite Practice.

Unwavering confidence in the power of intercession

MAY 6.

ST. JOHN BEFORE THE LATIN GATE.

ST. JOHN, the beloved disciple of Christ, after the death of our Blessed Lady having continued his apostolate and attained a great age in the zealous pursuance of his mission, was seized by the minions of the emperor Domitian, in the year 95, and carried in chains from Ephesus to Rome. In the latter city, the aged Apostle was inhumanly scourged, so that his limbs were all lacerated; and then the tyrant ordered him to be cast into a caldron of boiling oil before the Latin Gate. Wonderful to relate, St. John lived and glorified God in his terrible bath; and the seething liquid became as a balm which completely healed the wounds the scourging had inflicted on him. This miracle converted many souls. Domitian himself was struck with wonder, and ended by banishing St. John to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Apocalypse.

. . . I caught
The flame, and in that flame shall burn forever;
I love, and 'gainst my heart has throbbed the Heart
Of my Beloved.

From the Italian of SILVIO PELLICO *by* REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S. J.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently assure yourself that all things work together for good to them that love God.

MAY 7.

ST. STANISLAUS, Bishop and Martyr.

AT the period when St. Stanislaus was bishop of Cracow the throne of Poland was filled by a monarch named Boleslaus, whose life was given up to the wildest excesses. His disorders were a scandal to all Christian souls, yet none dared remonstrate with the dissolute king. The holy bishop of Cracow deemed it a duty to remind his sovereign of the obligations which he owed to God and his subjects. It was a perilous undertaking, and St. Stanislaus did not conceal from himself the painful consequences which might result from it. He spoke to the king, therefore, with mingled gentleness and firmness; but Boleslaus, enraged, vowed his destruction. After projecting an unjust law-suit which terminated to the satisfaction of the Saint, and the confusion of the king, Boleslaus charged certain soldiers to assassinate St. Stanislaus. Whilst the latter was celebrating Mass, in the year 1079, the wicked king led the murderers into the church and martyred the bishop at the altar, the sacrilegious monarch striking the first blow with his own hand.

Believe that strength lies not in steel or stone;
That perils wait the land whose heavy throne,
Though ringed by swords and rich with titled show,
Is based on fettered misery below

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

Favorite Practice.

In the exercise of lawful authority to be courageous but gentle in the duty of fraternal correction.

MAY 8.

APPARITION OF ST. MICHAEL, the Archangel.

IN the sixth century Rome was nearly depopulated by a great pestilence. St. Gregory, who was afterwards Pope, advised that a procession should be made through the streets of the city, the faithful praying and singing the long litanies. Accordingly, he placed himself at the head of the ranks, and for three days the worshippers perambulated the city. On the third day, when the procession arrived opposite the Mole of Hadrian, Gregory beheld the Archangel Michael alight on the summit of that monument and sheathe a sword which was dripping with blood. Then Gregory knew that the plague was stayed, and a church was there dedicated to the great archangel; and the Tomb of Hadrian has since been called the Castle of Sant' Angelo.

I raised my eyes, and shining,
Where the moon's first ray was bright,
Stood a wingèd angel-warrior,
Clothed and panoplied with light:
So with Heaven's love upon him,
Stern, in calm and resolute will,
Looked St. Michael,—does the picture
Hang in the old cloister still?

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

Confidence in the protecting power of St. Michael.

May 9.

ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bishop and Doctor.

IN the year 378, the imperial city of Constantinople was infested with the heretical sects known as the Arians and Apollinarists. When St. Gregory Nazianzen entered the city to begin a spiritual crusade against error, the orthodox believers only retained possession of one church—that of Anastasius. Advanced in years, exhausted by prayer and penance, St. Gregory came to his mission a poor, meanly clad man, without a companion to aid him. But the aged saint bore within him a soul of fire, and his eloquence of speech was unequalled. He was further animated by a vision of the Blessed Virgin, who caused an angel to present him with a golden pen. In vain did the heretics persecute and calumniate the missionary of Christ. In vain they stoned him in the streets and dragged him before tribunals. The cause of divine truth triumphed. The flock of the faithful was gradually increased by Gregory's efforts, and in 380 he was elected bishop of Constantinople. Peace being established, St. Gregory deemed his mission ended, and withdrew to the cloister, where he died in 390.

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers:
But Error, wounded, writhes with pain,
And dies among his worshippers.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

To fulfil with zealous fidelity the mission God entrusts to you.

MAY 10.

ST. ANTONINUS, Bishop of Florence.

IN 1448, a terrible plague raged throughout Florence, and was followed by a desolating famine. St. Antoninus was the gentle archbishop of that fated diocese, and his labors for his sick and starving flock were scarcely over before other awful visitations in the shape of successive earthquakes again drew forth developments of his heavenly charity and zeal. By the severe simplicity of his tastes he economized his income for the benefit of the poor, and was thus enabled to bestow generous alms. His tender love of the afflicted led him even to beg in their behalf; and this active benevolence, joined with the exceeding fervor of his prayers, endeared St. Antoninus alike to God and men. He was honored with many miracles, and died at an advanced age in 1459.

In accent so benign and passing sweet
As scarce was heard in this our mortal land.

DANTE.

Favorite Practice.

To comfort the afflicted, with a practical benevolence.

ST. MAMERTUS, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. MAMERTUS was the originator of the Rogation Days, so well known to the faithful as seasons of universal supplication to God. They had their origin at a period in the middle of the fifth century when Gaul was beset with the multiplied woes of civil wars, epidemics, floods, fires, and earthquakes. All nature seemed to be in throes; the wild beasts quitted their haunts and roamed at large in crowded cities, and the inhabitants were filled with fear and distress. St. Mamertus, then bishop of Vienne, directed that solemn public prayers should be offered to God to turn aside His wrath; and commanded the people to combine fasting with their fervent supplications. God had already favored the holy bishop with the gift of miracles, and He now proved by the cessation of the prevailing disasters that He was pleased with the homage offered at the suggestion of His servant. St. Mamertus passed to his reward in the year 477.

Th' Almighty now His servant's glory shows
And signal favors through his prayers bestows;
Diseases fly before his shrine,
And health returns by power divine.

Iste Confessor.

Favorite Practice.

A faithful attendance at the public offices of the Church.

MAY 12

ST. PANCRAS, Martyr.

IN the persecution under Diocletian this young saint, who was only fourteen years of age, encouraged by the example and words of his uncle, Denys, who was in bonds for the faith, offered himself voluntarily as a martyr, defending boldly before the emperor the cause of the Christians. He was thereupon beheaded by the sword, and his body honorably buried by the Christian women. His church in Rome near the Porta de San Pancrazio has existed since the year 500. Cardinal Wiseman, in his *Fabiola*, presents an exquisite picture of the young Pancratius.

A boy—and yet with power in his face,
And in his lifted eyes a holy peace;
The secret stimulus of Christ's embrace
Upholds the weakest in the torture-place,
And nerves the soul with foretaste of release.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To impress upon young people the necessity of understanding and defending the principles of their faith.

May 13.

ST. JOHN THE SILENT, Hermit.

ST. JOHN, surnamed the Silent, was born of a very wealthy family living at Nicopolis, in Armenia, in the latter part of the fifth or the beginning of the sixth century. He devoted his wealth to building a monastery, and also a church which was dedicated to the Blessed Mother of God. Having retired into the former, he was drawn thence at the age of twenty-eight and made bishop of Colonia, but after discharging faithfully the duties of that office for nine years he again withdrew from the world, first to a secluded spot as a solitary, and later to the monastery of St. Sabas. St. John gave himself up entirely to a life of contemplation. His rule was never to speak except in cases of necessity, and then to speak with such discretion that no word might be either wrong or useless. He died about the year 560.

Thus let me live unseen, unknown,
Thus, unlamented, let me die;
Steal from this world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Favorite Practice.

To guard not only against wrong, but useless words.

MAY 14.

ST. PACOMIUS, Hermit.

ST. PACOMIUS was but twenty years old when he was despatched as a soldier in the service of the militia to the town of Thebes in Egypt. The young man was a pagan, but the family on whom he was billeted during his service in the town, treated him with the most hospitable courtesy and consideration; and Pacomius, on inquiring the reason, discovered that his hosts were Christians. So charmed was he with their daily life that he himself embraced the true faith; and having placed himself under the guidance of a holy old man named Palemon, he entered upon the career of a hermit, and helped to lay the foundation of those monasteries of the Thebaid which were afterwards to become so famous. St. Pacomius died in 348.

Oh, what a glory doth this world put on
For him who with a fervent heart goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed and days well spent!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To preach to others by good example rather than by words.

ST. PETER LAMPSACUS, Martyr.

AT Lampsacus, a town of the Hellespont, during the persecution of Decius, a youth, named Peter, was denounced as a Christian. The proconsul ordered him to burn incense in honor of the goddess Venus. The brave young confessor refused with horror, and boldly condemned the vices which were attributed to that goddess by her worshippers. He exclaimed, "I despise a woman of bad life, and I honor only the One God, my Lord Jesus Christ, the God made man for the expiation of the sins of the world!" The courageous youth was then most cruelly racked and tortured; but the proconsul, seeing his joyful perseverance in suffering for the name of Christ, ordered him to be beheaded.

And I think how a pure spirit gazing on thee
Must long for the moment, the joyous, the free,
When the soul disembodied from nature shall spring,
Unfettered, at once to her Maker and King.

GERALD GRIFFIN.

Favorite Practice.

To shun like a plague all that savors of impurity in art and literature.

MAY 16.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCEN, Martyr.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCEN was born in Bohemia about 1330, and his life was miraculously preserved in his infancy. He early dedicated himself to God and the Blessed Virgin, and became a priest. He preached with such signal success among the students of the town of Prague that the emperor Wenceslas sent for him, and after hearing him preach made him his almoner. The empress and many of the nobility then began to have recourse to the holy man for confession and spiritual direction. Wenceslas, being jealously suspicious of the past life of his pious consort, commanded St. John to reveal to him the confessions of the empress. St. John firmly refused to betray his sacred trust, and Wenceslas subjected the noble priest to a protracted torture, and caused him at last to be thrown into the Moldau. The sacred body was discovered by the celestial light which surrounded it, was withdrawn from the water, and fittingly interred. This occurred in 1383.

. . . The failing eye grows bright,
And the strong spirit, wading through its blood,
Casts off its chains and kneels in light,—with God.

HON. IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To thank God for the sacred secrecy of the confessional.

MAY 17.

ST. TROPESIUS, Martyr.

TROPESIUS was one of the chief functionaries at the court of Nero, when he was converted to the faith of Christ by the apostle St. Paul. He continued his duties at the palace, but gave himself fearlessly to the practice of prayer and Christian works. He is one of those of whom the Apostle speaks when he says: "The saints salute you, and chiefly those of the household of Cæsar." At the first persecution under his brutal emperor, however, Tropesius was denounced on account of his faith. He was bound to a pillar and cruelly scourged; then tied to the wheel of a chariot, and finally thrown to the wild beasts of the arena. The lions refused to touch him, and, as he still lived after all his terrible torments, the holy confessor was beheaded by order of the tribune Satellicus.

The weary strife, the beating of the bars,
The torn limbs trailing 'neath the triumph-cars,
The mockery and the moan—
What boots it all to him whose path lies where
Some conquering day his soul shall mount the air
Up to a golden throne?

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To revere the memory of the early martyrs, and to imitate their zeal.

MAY 18.

ST. THEODOTUS, Martyr.

IN the latter part of the third century there lived in the town of Ancyra a Christian inn-keeper, named Theodotus. His life was a holy but a hidden one, as, while discharging the duties of his humble profession, he sanctified himself by prayer, almsgiving, and other works of charity. In the persecution then prevailing, his aunt Thecusia and many Christian virgins had undergone martyrdom, and their bodies had been sunk in a pool, weighted with stones, to deprive them of Christian burial. Theodotus, searching for these sacred remains by night, found them by the help of angels, and gave the blessed bodies honorable interment. For this he was denounced and subjected to protracted and most terrible tortures; and finally, having been beheaded, the judge ordered his body to be reduced to ashes, so that the Christians might not venerate his relics. This occurred about the year 303.

His fearless deeds around, like attending angels, stand,
Claiming recognition from the noble and the grand.

JOSEPH BRENAN.

Favorite Practice.

To reverence our bodies as the temples of the Holy Ghost.

MAY 19.

ST. DUNSTAN, Bishop.

ST. DUNSTAN lived in England in the latter part of the tenth century, and was destined by Divine Providence to exercise a powerful influence over the kings and courts of his time. As a simple monk, he aided by his counsels the kings Athelstan, Edmund, and Edred. Later, as bishop of Worcester, he rendered the same service to King Edgar; and later still, as archbishop of Canterbury, he checked by his firmness the grave disorders which arose in the court and realms of that monarch, and even induced Edgar himself to descend from his throne and perform public penance. After his assassination, Dunstan boldly announced to Ethelred, the murderer of Edgar, the woes that would befall him; and manfully upheld Edgar's son, Edward, in his claim to the crown. The great archbishop died in 988

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still travelling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

A single-hearted courage which vanquishes human respect.

May 20.

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENNA, Confessor.

THIS saint was of the noble family of the Albizeschi, and was born at Massa in the Siennese territory, in 1380. From childhood he manifested a great piety and purity of disposition; and began at the age of seventeen to devote himself to the care of the poor and the sick. During a great plague which broke out at that time at Sienna, St. Bernardine, assisted by twelve young men, sustained the entire charge of the plague-hospital, and was in attendance night and day. At the age of twenty-three he took the habit of St. Francis, and not only became a renowned preacher, but also established the *Osservanti*, or reformed Order of Franciscans. His zeal, his oratory, and the splendid example of his own pure, mortified life worked wonders in all the chief towns of Italy. St. Bernardine passed to his eternal reward in 1444.

The proud he tamed, the penitent he cheered,
Nor to rebuke the rich offender feared;
His preaching much, but more his practice wrought
A living sermon of the truths he taught;
For this, by rules severe, his life he squared,
That all might see the doctrine which they heard.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

To ground yourself first solidly in virtue, if you would induce others to practise it.

ST. HOSPITUS, Hermit.

A NATIVE of Gaul, named Hospitus, having made a journey to Egypt, was so enamored with the life of the solitaries of the Thebaid that he returned to a secluded spot near Nice, and there shut himself up in a deserted tower. Devoted to manual labor and prayer, he spent fifteen years in the severest penance; and in return for the mats which he made, the country people brought him the scanty supply of food and water of which he partook. The gift of prophecy was bestowed upon him, and he foretold the approaching irruption of the Lombards. When his prediction was realized, and one of the soldiers entered the cell of Hospitus and uplifted his arm to strike the helpless recluse, the arm of the ruffian at once withered up, and was only restored to its functions by the prayers of the hermit. This miracle converted the soldier, and led him also to embrace the life of an anchorite. Hospitus died in his tower in the year 581.

Do thou, then, breathe those thoughts into my mind
By which such virtue may in me be bred
That in thy holy footsteps I may tread.

From the Italian of MICHAEL ANGELO BUONAROTTI.

Favorite Practice.

"*Do good to them that hate you.*"

MAY 22.

ST. JULIA, Martyr.

WHEN Genseric sought to introduce Arianism into Carthage, he persecuted the true believers in that region; and numbers of all ranks and conditions were sold into slavery. St. Julia was one of these confessors. She was purchased by a Syrian merchant named Eusebius, who, discovering in time the virtue and fidelity of his bondwoman, treated her with great consideration, and allowed her the free practice of her religion. On one occasion, however, Eusebius took his slave with him to Corsica; and as Julia refused to take part in the pagan festivals which were being celebrated there, Felix, the governor of the island, insisted on subjecting her to torture in order to compel her to yield. Eusebius was plied with wine, so that he might aid these iniquitous designs; but Julia remaining firm in her faith, Felix caused her to be bound to a cross, whereon she expired, in the year 440.

I walk in dreams 'mid heavenly hills:
I hear the music of their rills;
Their wild birds sing, their zephyrs play,
In greenwoods of eternal May.

DR. R. D. JOYCE.

Favorite Practice.

Fortitude in unexpected trial.

ST. DESIDERIUS, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. DESIDERIUS was bishop of Langres about the year 410, when the Vandals were besieging that town. Thinking to move the hearts of the assailants, the good bishop assembled the principal members of his clergy and flock, and sallied forth with them to offer themselves as a holocaust to the fury of the barbarians, cherishing the hope that such an act would obtain the safety of Langres. But the Vandals, incapable of appreciating such generous self-sacrifice, proposed to Desiderius to apostatize and worship the false gods. On the refusal of the brave bishop to deny Christ, the barbarians beheaded him and his companions, within view of those whom they had hoped to save. The bodies of the martyrs were rescued the same night, and buried within the town.

That sacred flame Thy saints have known
Kindle, O Lord, in me;
Thou above all the rest forever,
And all the rest in Thee!

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

A daily perseverance, by means of prayer, in generous self-sacrifice.

May 24.

OUR LADY, Help of Christians.

IN 1571 a naval battle took place in the Gulf of Lepanto, near the Echinidas Islands, in which engagement the Christians were triumphant over the Turks. After the victory, the Pope, St. Pius V., added to the Litany of the Blessed Virgin the title "Help of Christians." The feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, however, was not formally proclaimed until after the second return of Pope Pius VII. from exile. During his banishment, he had invoked the intercession of the Mother of God; and the faithful, at his request, had joined him in that supplication. His return was unexpected; and as he referred to the Blessed Virgin so signal a favor, he desired that the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, should be celebrated annually by the Church in happy remembrance of the event.

When Beads above the banner hung,
While Christian heroes fought;
And Moslem arms beneath the force
Of all-prevailing prayer,
Were humbled by such rude defeat
As taught them to despair.

ELLEN DOWNING.

Favorite Practice.

The frequent use of the aspiration, "Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis."

May 25.

ST. GREGORY VII., Pope and Confessor.

HILDEBRAND, afterwards the great St. Gregory VII., was born in Tuscany and educated at Rome. He afterwards became a monk at Cluny, but was recalled to Rome, where he acquired fame by his zeal, sanctity, and learning. In 1054 Pope Victor II. sent Hildebrand into France as legate, authorized to abolish simoniacal practices; and the councils at Lyons and Tours were productive of wonderful results. In 1073, on the death of Pope Alexander II., the humble Hildebrand succeeded him in the papal chair, under the title of Gregory VII. He was an unsparing opponent of the crime of simony; and his most powerful enemy was Henry IV., king of Germany, who headed a simoniacal schism, and in 1084 invaded Rome and besieged the Pontiff in the Castle of St. Angelo. Duke Robert of Calabria, however, rescued the Pope and routed his enemies, and Gregory having been conducted by his defender to Salerno, fell ill there, and peacefully expired on May 25, 1085, in the twelfth year of his pontificate.

. . . A purpose high
To smite imperial heresy,
And cleanse the altar's stain.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To pray God constantly to deliver us from "the abomination of desolation."

MAY 26.

ST. PHILIP NERI, Confessor.

ST. PHILIP DE NERI was born in Florence in 1515, and from his early years displayed a great thirst for knowledge and piety. His profound humility prevented him from receiving Holy Orders until the age of thirty-eight; but his confessor induced him then to be ordained in order that he might be more useful in the salvation of souls. Henceforth, in fact, the zeal of St. Philip knew no bounds, and he displayed a marvellous facility in winning and leading souls to perfection. He was accustomed to retire to a little oratory of the church of St. Jerome in Rome, where his disciples came to pray with him, and confer upon ecclesiastical matters. Such was the beginning of the Congregation of the Oratory, whereof St. Philip became the first Rector-General. The great Florentine died in 1595.

O Paradise! O Paradise!
'Tis weary waiting here;
I long to be where Jesus is—
To feel, to see Him near:
Where loyal hearts and true
Stand ever in the light,
All rapture through and through,
In God's most holy sight.

FATHER FABER, *Priest of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri.*

Favorite Practice.

A holy liberty of spirit, joined with cheerful self-denial.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN OF PAZZI, Virgin.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN of Pazzi was a child of benediction, elected from her very infancy to manifest the marvels of divine love in a chosen and faithful soul. At the tender age of twelve years, she consecrated herself to Jesus Christ by a solemn vow; and as her noble parents (holding a distinguished position at Florence) wished the young Magdalen, three years later, to marry a suitable consort, the holy virgin announced, like St. Agnes, her espousals to that Eternal Lover to whom her heart and life were dedicated. Soon after, she entered the Carmelite Order, attracted thither by the frequent communions allowed its members. Her fervor was tested by many trials and temptations; but her fidelity remaining unshaken, she breathed forth her soul in the sweetest peace in the year 1607, being then forty-one years of age. Her favorite motto was "*Pati non mori.*"

With outstretched arms, she kneels in glowing prayer
(That gentle dove in Carmel's holy nest).
"To suffer or to die?" she ponders there,
And smites her breast:
"To die, sweet Christ? Exchange Thy cross and care
For swift reward? Ah! no, more pleased am I
To suffer yet *not* die!"

From "Legend of the Best-Beloved."

Favorite Practice.

Frequent spiritual communion.

May 28.

ST. GERMAIN, Bishop and Confessor.

THE bishop of Paris, and the counsellor of kings, the eminent sanctity of St. Germain was attested by many miracles. He was, truly, the father of the poor; and after exhausting his resources in most generous alms, he was even known to dispose of the sacred vessels in order to provide food for the hungry. His zeal for the dignity and solemnity of the divine worship was singularly exceptional. He recited the canonical office every day with uncovered head; even when travelling, and in inclement weather, offering that tribute of respect. He assisted every night at the entire office in his cathedral church; and whilst the clerks and canons divided that time into three several vigils, St. Germain remained there alone, without relaxing his fervor, until daydawn. The devoted bishop died in 576.

For by united force of all the spirit's powers,
A truly noble life in just proportion towers.

SCHILLER.

Favorite Practice.

Zeal for the offices of the Church.

MAY 29.

ST. CYRIL, Martyr.

THE little child-martyr Cyril was the son of a Christian mother who trained him carefully, and taught him to despise all earthly things for the sake of Jesus. But the boy's father was an idolater. He hated Christianity, and drove his little son from the shelter of his roof because he was faithful to his Lord and Saviour. It was a time of general persecution (supposed to have been during the reign of the emperor Decius), and the governor of Cæsarea, hearing of the little Cyril and of his banishment from home, caused the child to be brought before him. There the boy was tempted by caresses and promises to apostatize, and afterwards was led to the place of execution and shown the horrid instruments of torture. But blandishments and threats were alike of no avail in moving the little confessor; and the judge suffered him at last to win the eternal crown he craved.

O beauty of holiness,
Of self-forgetfulness, of lowliness!
O power of meekness
Whose very gentleness and weakness
Are like the yielding but irresistible air!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To cultivate in children a practical spirit of faith.

ST. FERDINAND, King.

ST. FERDINAND reigned for thirty-five years over the kingdoms of Castile and Leon. He was obliged to sustain continual wars against the Moors. "Thou knowest, O my God," he often exclaimed, "that it is neither from ambition nor the love of glory, that I make war on the enemies of Thy name, but in order to strike terror into those that blaspheme it." The holy king commanded his armies in person and presented to them a noble example of piety and bravery. He implored the protection of the God of hosts upon his arms, and wore under his own armor a hair-shirt shaped like a cross. He died on the 30th of May, 1252, and was canonized in 1671.

. . . Came
The bitter Death,
And this king so dear
Snatched from the earth.
Angels carried
His soul sincere
Into the light of heaven.

CÆDMON.

Favorite Practice.

To seek God's glory, and not our own, in defence of the right

ST. PETRONILLA, Virgin.

ST. PETRONILLA, according to an ancient tradition, was the daughter of St. Peter the Apostle. She was gifted with great beauty, and, living at Rome in the practice of all Christian maidenly virtues, she was sought in marriage by a Roman knight named Flaccus. The holy virgin had taken a vow to belong only to God, but being unable to free herself from the pressing attentions of her suitor, she begged him to grant her three days for the mature consideration of his proposal. During this interval she prepared herself for death, and fervently implored her divine Spouse to draw her to Himself. On the third day she was found dead, in the attitude of prayer.

She was so beautiful, so bright,
So spirit-like in her bridal-white,
It seemed, in the dim funereal light,
'Twas an angel that they saw.

GEORGE H. MILES.

Favorite Practice.

To weigh well, in prayer and retreat, the question of vocation.

June.

JUNE, *the rosy, radiant fairy,*
Murmurs : "Oh! how fair thou art!
Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Summer's sweets are thine, sweet Mary!"

E. C. D.

JUNE 1.

ST. PAMPHILIUS, Priest and Martyr.

ST. PAMPHILIUS was born at Beryta of a noble and powerful family, somewhere about the middle of the third century. He had been highly cultivated in profane literature, and held an important office in the magistracy of his native town. Becoming a Christian, he directed his studies to sacred learning, and gathered together a library of thirty thousand volumes. Numerous disciples collected around him, among whom one of the most famous was Eusebius of Cæsarea. In the latter town Pamphilius established a school for the instruction of his followers in a purely Christian philosophy. Soon, however, the master felt a call to a more perfect life. He distributed his goods to the poor, gave his library to the church at Cæsarea, and withdrew to a humble and hidden life. Whilst he was preparing himself for a holy death by the exercise of prayer and penance, Pamphilius was seized in 307 and martyred by order of the governor of Palestine.

. . . Generations of them came and went,
Blessing a spot which was the haunt of peace.

WILLIAM SETON.

Favorite Practice.

A generous encouragement to the cause of Catholic literature.

JUNE 2.

ST. POTHINUS, Martyr.

ONE of the first churches in Gaul was founded at Lyons in the first century by St. Pothinus. The body of Christians there began to grow so numerous and fervent that the pagans took alarm, and their jealous priests excited a tumult among the people. St. Pothinus was then more than ninety years of age, and was almost paralyzed in his limbs through age; but in order to answer the summons of the judges, he suddenly nerved himself to walk to the tribunal. On his way thither, being questioned mockingly by the multitude who surrounded him, the brave old martyr made such firm and heroic manifestation of his faith, that the rabble fell on him and so furiously maltreated him, that he expired in prison two days later. This was in the year 177.

For Thee they slight the threats of foes,
Their furious rage, and deadly blows;
The tearing hook they scorn no less,
Which cannot reach the soul's recess.

Sanctorum Meritis.

Favorite Practice.

To make efforts to master physical infirmity when the glory of God demands it.

JUNE 3.

ST. CLOTILDA, Queen.

IT is to Queen Clotilda that France, under God, owes the peerless and priceless title of Eldest Daughter of the Church. That humble, pious, and fervent queen was the spouse of the pagan king Clovis. She urged her husband to become a Christian, and paved the way to that grace by her prayers and good example. At the battle of Tolbiac, when Clovis was on the point of defeat, his troops already beginning to fly before the foe, the king received a sudden inspiration and corresponded to it. "God of Clotilda," he cried, "if Thou givest me the victory, I will become a Christian." Immediately the tide of battle was turned in his favor, and Clovis was true to his word. The gentle queen, happy in the fulfilment of her dearest hopes, died at Tours in 543.

Oh, may our lives thine image be,
May each young Christian heart possess
Thy royal robes of lowliness,
Thy lily-crown of purity!

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To fulfil the true mission of the Christian woman.

JUNE 4.

ST. QUIRINUS, Bishop and Martyr.

BISHOP of Sisseg in Upper Pannonia, St. Quirinus was denounced for the faith in the year 309. The governor of the province, before whom he was brought, tried to induce the bishop to sacrifice to the gods of the empire, and mockingly scorned the power of the God of the Christians. Quirinus calmly and nobly proclaimed the might of the King of kings, and almost immediately gave the governor and people a miraculous proof of it. For, having been cast into the Danube with a millstone about his neck, the martyr floated by the aid of the great stone on the surface of the water, and addressed sublime words to the astonished multitude on the banks. When the strange sermon was finished, Quirinus sank with the millstone under the waters.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares,
Out of all meaner cares

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

A daily invocation, "Infinite Power of God, support my weakness!"

JUNE 5.

ST. BONIFACE, Apostle of Germany.

ABOUT the year 723, Pope Gregory II. sent this holy missionary to carry the light of the Gospel into Germany. Having been made archbishop of Mayence, Boniface worked wonders of conversion throughout the Rhenish provinces. Amid his great labors and successes, the humble apostle manifested in a remarkable degree his devotion and submission to the Primacy of Peter. He seems to have been chosen to put in evidence the supremacy of that See over the whole Christian world. He was constantly recurring to Rome to ask for counsel, to renew or confirm the apostolic powers with which he had been invested. In the year 755 St. Boniface, together with fifty-two of his neophytes whom he was about to confirm, was martyred in Friesland.

That man to win one soul eternal bliss,
Long leagues of wilderness, unwearying, trod;
Sought not himself, nor kingdom cared to win,
Save *that* the pure, alone, can enter in.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To zealously uphold the supremacy of the Chair of Peter.

JUNE 6.

ST. NORBERT, Bishop.

ST. NORBERT was a nobly-born courtier in attendance on the emperor Henry IV. of Germany. His life, for years, was given up to vain display and the excesses of worldly enjoyments. One day, as he was riding in the pursuit of his pleasures, he was struck by lightning, and left for dead upon the spot. But after a time, on coming to his senses, he reflected seriously on the state of his soul, and was then and there thoroughly converted to God. He became an austere penitent and eventually founded the Order of Prémontré, wherein poverty, silence, fasting, labor, and prayer were observed. Many gentlemen who had been his worldly friends were drawn, by his good example, to join him in his monastery. In 1126 St. Norbert was created bishop of Magdeburg, and glorified God in that office by his virtues and austerities. He died in peace in 1134, being fifty-three years of age.

So sleeps the soul till Thou, O Lord,
Shalt deign to touch its lifeless chord;
Till waked by Thee, its breath shall rise
In music worthy of the skies.

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

Never to allow others to express doubts of the conversion of any sinner.

JUNE 7.

ST. PAUL, Bishop.

THE episcopate of St. Paul, patriarch of Constantinople, was one long succession of trials and stormy persecutions for the faith of that holy bishop. The malice and fury of the Arians were unceasingly manifested against him. He was driven into exile, first by the emperor Constantine, and twice in succession, at a later period, by the implacable Constans. The last time he was banished to Cucuza, where the hatred of the Arians still pursued him, and their hired assassins strangled the venerable Paul in the prison to which he had been consigned. This was in the year 351; and the holy patriarch's death is justly considered a martyrdom, since he perished in defence of the faith.

What nothing earthly gives, or can destroy,
(The soul's calm sunshine and the heart-felt joy,)
Is virtue's prize.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Favorite Practice.

To prepare one's self to embrace exile, or even death, rather than sacrifice principle.

JUNE 8.

ST. MEDARD, Bishop and Confessor.

THIS holy prelate was bishop of Noyon and Tournay, and his zeal was exercised in most successfully rooting out the remains of paganism in his two dioceses. He was so extremely good and gentle that his persuasive preaching won all hearts. It was he who instituted the "Feast of the Rose," a touching and beautiful celebration at Salency, at which, year after year, a sum of money and a crown of roses were given to the most virtuous and deserving maiden in that district. During many centuries this custom caused great emulation among the modest young virgins of Salency, and so long as it remained a Christian festival was productive of the happiest results. St. Medard died in 545.

He preached the joys of heaven and pains of hell,
And warned the sinner with becoming zeal,
But on eternal mercy loved to dwell.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

To supply or increase the dowry of poor, deserving maidens.

ST. PELAGIA, Virgin and Martyr.

IN Antioch, in the year 311, some pagan soldiers suddenly presented themselves to a young Christian virgin named Pelagia, and rudely summoned her to accompany them to the tribunal of persecution. Fearing that these fierce men were about to outrage her virtue, and prompted by an exceptional inspiration from the Holy Ghost, the gentle girl (who was only about fifteen years of age) made an excuse to quit their presence for a moment. She climbed to the roof of the house, and trusting to the Power which had prompted the deed, she offered her life and her purity to the protection of God, and sprang from the height. God accepted the sacrifice and the Church inscribed Pelagia in the number of her martyrs. Many churches were dedicated to her in remote times.

'Midst lilies Thou dost love to be,
Pure virgins round Thy throne we see,
O glorious Bridegroom, who dost bless
Thy brides with endless happiness!

Jesu Corona Virginum.

Favorite Practice.

To prefer death to the commission of mortal sin.

JUNE 10.

ST. MARGARET, Queen of Scotland.

ST. MARGARET, Queen of Malcolm of Scotland, was also the grand-niece of St. Edward, King of England. Eminently beautiful, noble, and virtuous, she acquired a wonderful ascendency over the heart of her royal consort, and aided him in establishing just and holy laws. She made him, by her influence, the father of the poor, the protector of religion, and the patron of science and letters. A Christian mother, she trained her children to piety with a prayerful solicitude and the force of her own heroic example. The news of the death of King Malcolm at the siege of Alnwick affected the devoted queen so grievously that she did not long survive her husband, but died in 1094.

Life is a burden: bear it;
Life is a duty: dare it;
Life is a thorn-crown: wear it.

FATHER RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

To rule as a noble queen over the kingdom of one's own passions.

JUNE 11.

ST. BARNABAS, Apostle.

ST. BARNABAS was born in Cyprus, and was ordained and appointed apostle to the Gentiles by the great St. Paul. The name of Barnabas signifies *Comforter*, and was given to him because of his tenderness and love for the poor. He became the companion of St. Paul, and travelled with him into many provinces preaching the gospel of Christ. At last, returning into Cyprus, St. Barnabas adorned his apostleship with the glorious crown of martyrdom, A.D. 50. In the time of the emperor Nero the body of the martyr was revealed to the faithful by means of a vision; and along with the sacred remains was discovered the Gospel of St. Matthew in the handwriting of that evangelist.

Man works in haste, for speed with him is might;
In depth and silence God's great works are laid,
As in foundation-stones, all dimly bright.

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

To aid and encourage the Association for the Propagation of the Faith.

JUNE 12.

ST. ONOPHRIUS, Hermit.

IN the third century a Christian named Onophrius, entered the monastery of Abage, near Hermopolis, and was there trained to the spiritual life. Desiring to devote himself to an eremitical career of still greater seclusion and austerity, Onophrius, in time, withdrew into the desert of the Thebaid, and was there directed by another solitary to seek a more distant retreat where his solitude would be entire. The hermit did as he was advised, and came upon a spot in the wilderness where he abode for seventy years in prayer and penance. Once in the year, he received a visit from some one of the other adjacent hermits, and finally, on one of these occasions, Onophrius expired in the arms of the abbot Paphnucius, towards the fourth century of the Christian era.

Nights of anguish, days of labor,
Then bright flashings of God's sun,
Made Gethsemane and Thabor
Blend their mountains into one.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.

Favorite Practice.

A spirit of recollection, begotten of prayer and self-denial.

JUNE 13.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, Confessor.

ANTHONY OF PADUA belonged, in the outset of his religious life, to the Order of Canons Regular; but inflamed with the desire of martyrdom, he entered the community of the Capuchins, hoping to be sent on a mission to Africa. But God had other designs over His servant. Whilst Anthony, in humble obedience to his superiors, was engaged in the lowliest functions of the Order, he was suddenly directed to appear and speak before a general assembly of Dominicans and Franciscans then convened in Italy. The admirable talent and great erudition of the humble monk were at once made known; and the mighty mission of St. Anthony forthwith began. His preaching, his miracles, soon wrought a total change in the large Italian cities, and especially in Padua. He became the glory of his Order, and died on the 13th of June, 1231.

The plant set out by living fountains
Grows fruitful, and its beauteous branches rise
Forever towards the skies.

From the Spanish of LUPERCIO LEONARDO ARGENSOLA.

Favorite Practice.

To hide the gifts of God under a modest, unobtrusive exterior.

JUNE 14.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. BASIL, bishop of Cæsarea, maintained single-handed the combat of the faith against the emperor Valens, the strong partisan of Arianism. The prætorian-prefect, Modestus, by turns solicited and threatened the heroic prelate to yield to heresy; but Basil so set at naught the prefect's cajoleries and threats, that Modestus was forced to confess to Valens, "We are conquered." The emperor, however, signed the sentence of Basil's exile; but, his son, the young prince, having been struck with sudden illness, Valens sent for St. Basil, who cured the child by his prayers. There was no further question of exiling the holy bishop; and although the struggles of the heretics still continued, St. Basil died peacefully in his see in 379.

So grant me, God, from ev'ry care,
And stain of passion free,
Aloft through Virtue's purer air
To hold my course to Thee!
No sin to cloud, no lure to stay
My soul as home she springs;
Thy sunshine on her joyful way,
Thy freedom in her wings!

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

To fight the good fight if you would win the crown.

SS. VITUS, MODESTUS, and CRESCENTIA, Martyrs.

ST. VITUS was the son of noble Sicilian parents who were heathens; but the child having been committed to the care of a Christian nurse named Crescentia, she, together with her husband Modestus (who was also secretly a Christian), instructed the little Vitus in the faith and had him baptized. At twelve years of age the boy openly professed himself a Christian. His noble father was indignant, as was likewise the governor of the island, Valerian. Vitus was beaten and shut up in a dungeon; and the persecutions of his father still continuing, the youth fled with his nurse and Modestus, and crossed the sea to Italy. But soon after their arrival, they were all three accused before the satellites of the emperor Diocletian, and received the crown of martyrdom.

At His will and bountiful decree,
From low, obscurest things,
In everlasting truth and harmony,
Celestial beauty springs.

FATHER CASWALL.

Favorite Practice.

To secure the purest influences in the nurseries of young children.

JUNE 16.

ST. JOHN FRANCIS REGIS, Confessor.

IN 1616, at the age of eighteen years, John Francis Regis entered the Society of Jesus. Soon after the completion of his novitiate he was assigned by his superiors to the work of the missions. Here his zeal was unbounded, and, aided by divine grace, he accomplished wonders. He especially directed his efforts to the instruction of the poor, the care and comfort of the sick, and the conversion of the most hardened sinners. His manner of preaching was simple, modest, and humble. He loved to gather the children together by the sound of a bell, and teach them the catechism in the public squares. His life was shortened by his labors and austerities, and he died in 1640, in a state of holy rapture, declaring that Jesus and Mary were coming to meet him. It was at the tomb of St. John Francis Regis that the celebrated Curé d'Ars received the miraculous aid which enabled him to complete his theological studies.

Thus still I die, yet still I do revive,
My living death by dying life is fed;
Grace more than nature keeps my heart alive,
Whose idle hopes and vain desires are dead.

REV. FATHER SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To manifest a practical interest in the association of the Holy childhood.

SS. NICANDER and MARCIAN, Martyrs.

THESE two saints were Christian soldiers and comrades, fighting under the same standard. But when the persecution of the emperors Diocletian and Galerius began, they quitted the military service, either to avoid the sacrifices to the false gods, or to prepare themselves for the combat of the arena, and aid the confessors already exposed to torture. They were both, eventually, denounced and brought before the governor, Maximius. Confessing the faith boldly, the Christian soldiers were subjected to varied and terrible torture, and were at last beheaded. Their wives accompanied them to the place of execution. The wife of Nicander nobly incited her husband to remain faithful to God, but the unhappy wife of Marcian sought in vain to turn him from his resolve by her tears and entreaties. The brave martyrs died together on the 17th of June, 302.

A faithful friend I fain would find,
To find him where he might be found;
But now is this world wext so unkind
That friendship is fall'n to the ground.

SISTER JULIANA BERNERS (*the ancient Prioress of Sopewell Nunnery*).

Favorite Practice.

At the demand of duty to deafen one's self to the pleadings of natural affection.

JUNE 18.

ST. CALOGERIUS, Hermit.

THE name Calogerius, signifying "the good old man," was given to a holy hermit who, during the reign of Theodosius the Younger, in the first part of the fifth century, came from Constantinople to seek an asylum in Sicily. That island, as well as some of the adjacent isles, was then in the darkness of paganism, and many of the islanders were possessed by the devil. Calogerius had been promoted to the order of Exorcist, and the Sovereign Pontiff had given him full authority to use his powers. The pious hermit began a crusade against the pagan oracles and idols. He cast out devils, and won over Sicily and the neighboring islands to the faith. His eloquent preaching worked wonders, because the holiness of his life was manifest in the austerities he practised, and the gift of prayer with which he was endowed.

The air he breathes, the ground he treads, the trees,
The flowers, the grass, the sands, each wind that blows,
All speak of God; throughout, one voice agrees,
And eloquent His dread existence shows.

From the Italian of FRA GIOVANNI COTTA, O.S.A.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect, from time to time, that "there are demons that can go out by nothing save by prayer and fasting."

JUNE 19.

SS. GERVAISE and PROTASE, Martyrs.

STS. GERVAISE and PROTASE were twin-brothers, who suffered martyrdom together at Milan, during the persecution of Domitian. Their bodies were interred, and their memory seemed for the time to slumber. But three centuries later, when St. Ambrose, archbishop of Milan, found himself about to be driven from his See by the empress Justina (the partisan of the Arians), he had a heavenly vision in which was revealed to him the spot where the twin-martyrs lay buried. The archbishop caused the sacred remains to be exhumed and exposed to the veneration of the faithful. So many miracles were wrought by contact with the relics, and devotion and faith were so strikingly increased, that the Arians no longer ventured to oppose St. Ambrose, and the cause of the martyrs triumphed.

In the hands of God Almighty
Doth the victory abide;
And He will on him bestow it
Who hath right upon his side.

CID CAMPEADOR.

Favorite Practice.

To confide in the infinite power of God amid unjust persecutions.

JUNE 20.

ST. FLORENCE, Virgin.

ST. FLORENCE was one of a family of saints, and was the daughter of Duke Severian of Carthagena, by his wife Theodora, during the reign of Justinian. Sts. Leander, Fulgentius, and Isidore, were her brothers; and her nephew was St. Hermingild, a sovereign prince of the Visigoths. St. Florence took the veil and became the spiritual mother of many religious women. Her brothers tenderly loved her, and Sts. Leander and Isidore both dedicated to her pious treatises which they had written on sacred subjects. St. Florence died about 633, being then superioress over nearly forty convents; and illustrious for her miracles.

Dost thou remember how our mother . . .
. . . . . Blessed the maiden and her brothers,
. . . And they smoothed her silver hair
With tender prayer?

From the French of FRANÇOIS AUGUSTE CHATEAUBRIAND.

Favorite Practice.

To exalt and purify the sentiments of natural affection.

JUNE 21.

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, Confessor.

ST. ALOYSIUS, or Louis Gonzaga, was the eldest son and heir of Ferdinand Gonzaga, Marquis of Castiglione. He was born in 1568. His saintly mother from his earliest infancy instilled into him the tenderest and noblest sentiments of piety, and her instructions bore such fruit that the youth never lost his baptismal innocence, and was styled by his dependents "the little prince exempt from the weakness of the flesh." Desiring to consecrate his life entirely to God, he with difficulty obtained his father's consent to resign his heritage to a younger brother, and entered the Society of Jesus before he was eighteen years old. He continued his studies for a few years, distinguished by his talents and angelic piety; but died in consequence of a fever caught in attending the sick during an epidemic in Rome in 1591. St. Aloysius is the especial patron of young students.

Oh, say not, precious children,
"Such heights are not for us"!
He loved our Lord intensely.
And our Lord is generous.
Ere the light of grace auspicious
In your tender souls grows dim,
Come to Saint Aloysius
And learn to love like him.

From "Domus Dei."

Favorite Practice.

To carefully avoid every occasion which might endanger the angelic virtue.

JUNE 22.

ST. PAULINUS, Bishop of Nola.

ST. PAULINUS was born at Bordeaux in 353. He was the scion of a long line of noble senators, and his father was prefect of Gaul. Taught by the famous Ausonius, Paulinus at the age of twenty-five, became himself a prefect and was united in marriage to a rich and illustrious Spanish lady named Teresa. Wealth and honors seemed lavished upon him, but suddenly a change came in the empire which stripped Paulinus of his dignities and left him comparatively poor. The husband and wife, being mutually impressed with the emptiness of all worldly goods, agreed to devote themselves thenceforth to a life of perfection. They sold their remaining possessions and distributed the proceeds to the poor, to whose service Theresa dedicated herself. Paulinus embraced the religious state, and, later, became bishop of Nola. He died in 431 lamented by all, but especially by the poor, to whom he had been a true father.

Faith wings the soul beyond the sky
Up to that better world on high
For which we wait.

From the Spanish of JORGE DE MANRIQUE.

Favorite Practice.

To convince yourself of the mutability of all earthly goods and honors.

JUNE 23.

ST. ETHELREDA, Queen.

ST. ETHELREDA was the daughter of St. Heruwyda and of the pious king Anna, of the East Angles. Three of her sisters, Sexburga, Withburga, and Ethelburga, were also canonized saints. Ethelreda was born in the county of Suffolk in England, and having been given in marriage, was left a widow after three years, which she had spent with her husband in holy continence. She retired to the island of Ely in order to devote herself to practices of piety, but Egfrid, king of the Northumbrians, begged her to become his royal consort. She yielded, on condition that her virginity might remain intact; and, after effecting great good in the world by her queenly example, Ethelreda withdrew again into retirement, and founded a nunnery on the island of Ely, where she died in 679. Eleven years afterwards, her body was discovered to be incorrupt, and many miracles were wrought by contact therewith.

No holier sanctuary on earth has ever been
Than, in a body chaste, a soul that's void of sin.

From the German of REV. J. SCHEFFLER.

Favorite Practice.

To reverence the purity which God Himself honors in the bodies of His virgins.

JUNE 24.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

"NOW Elizabeth's full time of being delivered was come; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had showed His great mercy towards her; and they congratulated with her. And it came to pass that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child and they called him by his father's name, Zachary. And his mother answering said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said to her There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father how he would have him called. And demanding a table-book he wrote saying, John is his name. And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God."—ST. LUKE i. 57–65.

O Voice that by the Jordan cried
(Keen, piercing as a two-edged sword),
Assailing court and camp alike,
"Make straight the pathway of the Lord!"
O angel sent before His face,
Beseech for us new light and grace!

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

An austere and prayerful detachment from the good things of this life.

JUNE 25.

ST. PROSPERUS, Confessor.

ST. PROSPERUS of Aquitaine was one of the most illustrious disciples of St. Augustine, as well as one of the noblest intellects of his age. He was a voluminous writer in the cause of truth, and boldly and strenuously opposed in his compositions the errors of the Pelagians and Semi-Pelagians, giving no more quarter to the latter than to the former. He was loaded, in consequence, with persecution and calumny. He made a journey to Rome in order to defeat the machinations of these heretics, who appealed against him to the Sovereign Pontiff, and succeeded in establishing more firmly than ever his triumph as the buckler of faith. Prosperus died, as it is believed, about the year 465.

Father of heaven! if by Thy mercy's grace,
A living branch I am of that true Vine
Which speads o'er all, . . .
. . . . . .
So cleanse me that, abiding e'er with Thee,
I feed me hourly with the heavenly dew,
And with my falling tears refresh the root.

From the Italian of VITTORIA COLONNA.

Favorite Practice

To give no countenance to the insidious subtilties of heresy.

JUNE 26.

SS. JOHN and PAUL, Martyrs.

ON the brow of the Cœlian Hill, and in a most striking situation, looking across to the ruins on the Palatine, stands the church of the two brothers, John and Paul, who were martyred about the year 362, and whose church has existed since 499. They were officers in the service of Constantia, and were put to death by Julian the Apostate. Their house stood upon the site of the church, one of the most beautiful spots in ancient Rome. In the thirteenth century some Dominican monks from Rome, built the famous Church of Sts. John and Paul at Venice; an edifice so magnificent that a distinguished archaiologist declares "it can never be forgotten by those who have lingered around its wondrous and precious monuments."

. . . So that a life 'mid war and tempest passed
A peaceful port may find, and close at last
On Jesu's breast.

From PETRARCH.

Favorite Practice.

To sanctify one's self in one's state of life, no matter how distracting its duties.

JUNE 27.

ST. LADISLAUS King and Confessor.

LADISLAUS was elected king of Hungary in 1080. He was a great and good monarch, and manifested by his zeal for the accomplishment of Christian works, that he well knew how to fulfil the high charge confided to him. He was a model of justice and courage, at the same time captivating all by his simple and modest virtues. He annexed to his dominions Cracovia and Dalmatia; expelled the Huns, and conquered the Poles, Russians, and Tartars. He died in 1095, just as he was inaugurating a great crusade against the infidels to wrest from them the possession of the Holy Land. Many miracles were wrought at his tomb.

I would have my heart
From littleness apart,
A love-anointed thing;
Be set above my kind,
In my unfettered mind,
A veritable king.

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

A tender reverence for the holy places of Palestine.

St. Albert's College Library

JUNE 28.

ST. IRENÆUS, Bishop and Martyr.

THE disciple of Sts. Papias and Polycarp (who were themselves the disciples of St. John the Evangelist), St. Irenæus, earnestly sought to reproduce in himself the virtues and wisdom of his teachers. He was called to succeed St. Polthinus in the bishopric of Lyons, and there was enabled to display the zeal and charity of St. John, and the courage and greatness of soul of St. Polycarp. He vigilantly but sweetly opposed heresy and upheld the faith and the unity of the Church, and by his letters and active interposition he succeeded in amicably adjusting a disagreement between Pope Victor and the bishops of Asia on the subject of the Paschal observance. St. Irenæus suffered martyrdom in the year 202.

. . . His spirit's tone
Doth waft the voices of Oblivion back,
Waking the soul to lofty memories.

MRS. ELIZABETH F. ELLET.

Favorite Practice.

As a peace-maker to truly aspire to be the child of God.

ST. PETER, Apostle.

CALLED to quit his humble avocation as a fisherman, St. Peter was chosen by Christ to be the Head of His Church and the chief of His Apostles. On the eve of His cruel Passion, St. Peter loudly asseverated his resolve to be faithful to his Lord and Master though all others might desert Him. A few hours later, yielding to fear, he denied our Lord three several times. A look from the Master he had thus outraged and insulted pierced the heart of Peter to its very core. Henceforth he lived but to bewail that cruel falsehood; and his cheeks are said to have been furrowed into channels, because of his frequent and abundant tears. After the descent of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, St. Peter entered with admirable zeal upon his apostolic career. He preached in Judea, Asia Minor, and at Rome. In the latter city he established his See, and there suffered martyrdom by being crucified with his head downwards in the year 66.

A thousand times I sigh for Thee:
O Jesu mine, when wilt Thou come?
O Jesu mine, most sweet to me,
My panting spirit's hope and home,
In quest of Thee, 'mid tears and cries,
My famished soul relentless flies!

From the Latin of SAINT BERNARD.

Favorite Practice.

To zealously uphold the dogma of the Infallibilty of the Vicar of Christ.

JUNE 30.

COMMEMORATION OF ST. PAUL, Apostle.

THIS great apostle of the Gentiles labored the most for the propagation of the Gospel, suffered in return the bitterest persecution, and received in consequence the sublimest revelations. He preached the faith in Judea, Samaria, Greece, Thrace, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Spain, Gaul, and Italy. He was frequently imprisoned, scourged and stoned, and was many times left for dead. In sublime communication with God, he was raised to the third heaven and admitted to a share in the eternal mysteries. But in order that the greatness of his revelations might not fill him with pride, he was permitted to be tried by human weaknesses and humiliating temptations. St. Paul preached, with St. Peter, the Gospel at Rome, and there suffered martyrdom with him, being beheaded in the year 66.

Lo, as the prophet heard
Of old, I clearly hear
From every burning bush God's word
Outspoken to mine ear.

CHARLES WARREN STODDARD.

Favorite Practice.

To do what your hand finds to do with all your might.

July.

Flowers in her tangled hair,
Pants the beautiful JULY:
"Visitation Day is nigh,
Mary's happy journey share!"

E. C. D.

JULY 1.

ST. THIBAULT, Hermit.

THE son of Count Arnold of Champagne the young Thibault, through reading the lives of the anchorites of the Thebaid, became so enamored with the charms of solitude, penance, and prayer, that he stole away when a boy from his father's house, and with a young friend named Walter went to hide himself in a wild retreat near Vicenza They exchanged their rich robes for humble attire, and in their solitude supported themselves by the labor of their hands. Walter dying, the solitary Thibault so redoubled the fervor of his life that the fame of his sanctity got abroad, and the Count and Countess of Champagne finally succeeded in discovering their lost son. They came to visit him; and his mother, overcome with admiration at his angelic life, concluded to dwell near her son, thenceforth, in a little cell he built for her. St. Thibault was not long to enjoy the happiness of her society, for he died at the age of thirty-three years.

Not where the wealth of the worldling abounded,
But away in a wilderness, cheerless and drear.

THOMAS J. MCGEOGHEGAN.

Favorite Practice.

To entice children to bear the yoke from their youth; for "His yoke is easy and His burden light."

JULY 2.

THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

"AND Mary rising up in those days, went into the mountainous country with haste, into a city of Juda: and she entered into the house of Zachary, and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: and she cried out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my lord should come to me? For, behold, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed art thou that hast believed: because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord." —ST. LUKE i. 39–46.

Hear, O *Mater Salvatoris!*
Hear our hymn to thee.
Spread thy glittering pinions o'er us—
Scatter rays of love before us,
From eternity!

MRS. ANNA H. DORSEY.

Favorite Practice.

An humble and affable attention to the needs of our inferiors.

JULY 3.

ST. PHOCAS, Martyr.

DURING the persecution of the emperor Diocletian there lived at Sinope a Christian gardener named Phocas, who exercised a generous hospitality toward strangers from the produce of his garden. The governor of the province, on receipt of the emperor's edict, sent two of his satellites to put the humble Phocas to death. The latter hospitably entertained these murderous visitors; and, as they were not personally acquainted with their host, they asked for information regarding the person they were seeking. Phocas gently bade them take their rest that night, and the next day they should be introduced to the victim. During the night he dug his own grave, and on the following morning he said quietly to them, "I am the man you seek; do with me what you will." They were so utterly bewildered at this heroic generosity that they hesitated, but finally beheaded him; and at his tomb, called that of *Phocas the Good*, great miracles were afterwards worked.

The mariners, where roll the waves
Of Egypt's dark blue sea,
St. Phocas claim for patron saint.

ELIZABETH KING.

Favorite Practice.

To bless them that curse you.

JULY 4.

ST. ULRICH, Bishop.

ST. ULRICH was bishop of Augsburg in the tenth century. The Hungarians and Sclaves had devastated that town, just before the good bishop's installation. Having driven away the Christians and their clergy, they had burned the cathedral, laid the churches in ruins, and destroyed the monuments. St. Ulrich restored everything to a state of order, peace, and ecclesiastical discipline. He devoted himself to good works, and was the model of his people. In the discharge of his onerous duties having reached a great age, he appointed his nephew bishop in his stead, and retired to the abbey of St. Gall, intending to spend there the residue of his days. But he was forced by holy obedience to resume the charge of his See, where he died in 973, at the age of eighty.

Gird your hearts with silent fortitude,
Suffering, yet hoping all things.

MRS. HEMANS.

Favorite Practice.

To adhere faithfully to the special vocation which God has marked out for you.

JULY 5.

ST PETER OF LUXEMBOURG, Bishop.

ST. PETER was the boy-bishop of Metz, having been appointed to that office in 1384 by Pope Clement VII., when he was not yet fifteen years of age. His mind and character, however, were maturely developed, and he had been carefully trained to virtue from his infancy. His brother being a prisoner of war at the court of England, the young prelate was sent thither as a hostage; but afterwards entering on his episcopal duties at Metz, he, in imitation of our Divine Lord, made his entry into his diocese, barefoot, and mounted on an ass. He was, thenceforth, a model to his people of humility, meekness, and merciful charity to sinners and the poor. The Pope created him cardinal at the age of seventeen; but St. Peter died when he was only eighteen, without having been consecrated.

As a cherished flower grows more fair,
And blooms each season with a sweeter breath.

WILLIAM SETON.

Favorite Practice.

To remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

ST. GOAR, Hermit.

ST. GOAR was a good priest who was born in Aquitaine about the year 585. He labored for years in the successful fulfilment of his sacerdotal duties, especially among pagans and heretics; and afterwards seeking a greater personal perfection, he withdrew to a hermitage in the diocese of Treves. The fame of his sanctity drew to his cell great numbers of sick and pilgrims, to whom St. Goar extended a generous hospitality, so that he was falsely accused to the bishop of Treves of having turned his hermitage into a hostelry, and of indulging himself and his guests in good cheer. St. Goar justified himself in all gentleness and humility; but the bishop demanded of him a miracle to prove his innocence. To establish the virtue of His servant, God permitted a secret fault of the prelate's to be on the instant laid bare, to his great confusion. The holy hermit was afterwards offered the bishopric of Treves, which he declined to accept; and he died peacefully in 647.

A quiet, patient heart that meekly serves its Lord,
God's finger joys to touch: it is His harpsichord.

Angelus Silesius.

Favorite Practice.

To act with purity of intention, and God Himself will justify your actions.

JULY 7.

ST. PANTENUS, Confessor.

ST. PANTENUS was a noble philosopher of the ancient Stoics who, having been converted to Christianity, was charged with the direction of a school of Christian philosophy at Alexandria instituted by the disciples of St. Mark. Whilst Pantenus was zealously fulfilling the duties of his office, the bishop of Alexandria deputed him to journey to the Indies, to combat the doctrines of the Brahmins, and to rekindle in that region the light of the faith. The holy missionary returned after some years, bringing with him a copy of St. Matthew's Gospel in Hebrew, which must have been taken to the Indies by St. Bartholomew. St. Pantenus died the death of the saints at Alexandria in the year 215.

But an old age, serene and bright,
And lovely as a Lapland night,
Shall lead thee to thy grave.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Favorite Practice.

To sanctify one's life, as St. Pantenus taught, rather than to indulge in subtle controversies.

ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, Queen.

ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL was the gentle grand-niece of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and, like that sweet princess, wore the Franciscan habit. She was the daughter of Peter III., king of Aragon, and was married young to Denis, king of Portugal. Her husband, by a singular conjunction of characteristics, was a wise, just, and fortunate prince as regarded his subjects, but faithless, profligate, and cruel in his conjugal and domestic relations. The meekness and forbearance of his lovely wife, however, finally won the victory over the vices of the king, and he became a staid and sincere Christian. At his death, St. Elizabeth desired to retire from her court and take the veil; but the poor would have been thus deprived of their mother, and for their sake this angel of piety and peace decided to remain in the world. She died in the year 1336, the victim of her charity, as her last illness was caused by the over-exertion of a long journey taken in order to prevent a civil war in the kingdom.

Pure, meek, serene,
Sweeter to her it was to serve, unseen,
Her God, than reign a queen.

Breviary.

Favorite Practice.

To cultivate a gentle tranquillity in all our words and deeds.

JULY 9.

ST. EPHREM, Hermit.

ST. EPHREM was one of the holiest and most illustrious doctors of the Syrian Church. He was born with an impetuous temper, which was the cause of his committing in his youth, before baptism, faults which he never ceased to bewail. By dint of courage and virtue, however, he so completely mastered his besetting infirmity that he was universally styled "the peaceful man of God." St. Ephrem dwelt in solitude and never quitted it save at the call of duty. He was the author of many learned and pious treatises; and was the contemporary of Sts. Gregory of Nyssa and Basil of Cæsarea. His profound humility withheld him from being ordained a priest; and he died full of good works, at a very advanced age, about the year 378.

Calm, deep, and still is now my heart
With tranquil waters overflowed;
A lake whose unseen fountains start
Where once the hot volcano glowed.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

Never during life to cease combating one's ruling passion.

ST. FELICITAS AND HER SEVEN SONS, Martyrs.

A ROMAN matron named Felicitas had inspired her seven sons with sentiments of the most exalted Christian virtue, and the example of her family caused the conversion of many unbelievers. The pagan priests denounced her to the emperor Antoninus, and Felicitas and her sons were cited to appear before the prefect. Threats and promises were alike made use of to shake the constancy of the young confessors and their heroic mother, but the latter incited her children to remain firm by the most eloquent and tender appeals. The youths were condemned to varied tortures, and martyred at intervals before her eyes. Felicitas died with the last of her children in the year 164 of the Christian era.

. . . And then, in new, strange guises of great light,
In beauty making tame life's loveliness,
There shall you meet, there shall you re-unite,
When earth is past, and all its wretchedness.

HON. IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To pray often that God may raise up saintly mothers in these days of corruption and carelessness.

JULY 11.

ST. JAMES, Bishop of Nisiba.

ST. JAMES was living in the depths of a forest a life of solitary penance and prayer, when the inhabitants of Nisiba, well aware of his talents and high cultivation, as well as of his sanctity, drew him out of his retreat to constitute him their bishop. He devoted himself heart and soul to the duties of his episcopal charge, carrying with him to that high office his characteristic humility, zeal, and spirit of poverty. He wrought many remarkable miracles by the power of his prayers, among other wonders, delivering Constantinople from the heresiarch, Arius; and twice preserving his episcopal town, Nisibia, from the assaults of the Persians. St. James died in the odor of sanctity about the year 350.

In solitude I am alone,
  Alone with God, whose power divine
I feel as though His awful throne
  Were yonder mighty towering pine.
No wonder that my thoughts incline
  Mere earthly fancies to exclude,
And revel in the truths that shine
  My soul upon in solitude.

REV. P. A. TREACY.

Favorite Practice.

To second your prayers by acts of humility and self-denial.

JULY 12.

ST. JOHN GUALBERT, Abbot.

JOHN GUALBERT was a gentleman of Florence in the eleventh century, who lived according to the maxims of a corrupt world. Once on a Good Friday, he came suddenly in a narrow defile upon a mortal enemy, whom he struck to the earth and was about to murder. But the fallen man besought mercy through the cross and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, commemorated by the Church on that very day. Gualbert, moved with the pious emotions of divine grace, forgave his foe and suffered him to go unharmed upon his way. God rewarded the generous act most marvellously. St. John renounced the world and became a monk, and eventually founded the Order of Vallombrosa, which was approved by the Pope in 1070. The holy abbot died in 1073.

There in the cool dim stillness, on his knees,
Trembling, he flings himself, and startled sees,
Set in the rock, a crucifix antique
From which the wounded Christ bends down to speak:
"Thou hast done well, Gualberto; for *My* sake
Thou didst forgive thine enemy; now take
My gracious pardon for thy times of sin,
And from this day a better life begin."

From "Out of Sweet Solitude."

Favorite Practice.

Generous forgiveness of injuries.

JULY 13.

ST. EUGENE, Bishop and Confessor.

IN 481, St. Eugene was elected bishop of Carthage by the unanimous voice of the Catholics of that town and with the assent of Hunneric, king of the Vandals, although he and his people were upholders of Arianism. The pious bishop was so filled with a spirit of glowing charity that his distribution of alms (which he gave abundantly) was without any distinction of persons or creeds; and thus he so won the hearts of the heretics that many of them returned to the true faith. But the Arian priests, being disquieted by these blessed results, raised a persecution of a terrible and pitiless nature against St. Eugene and his flock. But the latter were too numerous to be easily exterminated. The bishop was twice driven into exile, and was sentenced to penalties which the officers had not the heart to exact. The noble Confessor finally died in 505 at Albi, in Gaul, in a monastery which he had constructed.

Help to all he did dispense,
Gold, instruction, raiment, food;
Like the gifts of Providence,
To the evil and the good.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

Favorite Practice.

To love thy neighbor as thyself, even those who injure thee or differ from thee in religion.

ST. BONAVENTURE, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. BONAVENTURE became a Franciscan friar in 1243; and afterwards, by reason of his great sanctity and heavenly erudition, he was chosen Father-General of his Order. He was promoted to the bishopric of Albans by Gregory IX., and was made cardinal by the same Pontiff, and charged with the direction of the General Council of Lyons. Amid all these honors and dignities, St. Bonaventure preserved a singular spirit of humility. When he first learned that he was to be made bishop he fled away to France; and when the Pope's envoys brought to him the insignia of cardinal, they found him serving his brethren at table. On one occasion St. Thomas Aquinas asked him whence he drew so much eloquence and unction in his discourses; St. Bonaventure pointed to his crucifix and replied, "Behold the great book that teaches me everything!" He died at Lyons in 1271.

Thy words had such a melting flow,
And spake of Truth so sweetly well,
They dropped like heaven's serenest snow,
And all was brightness where they fell.

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

To humble yourself if you would be truly exalted.

ST. HENRY, Emperor and Confessor.

HENRY II. was anointed emperor of Germany on the 8th of July, 1002. His reign was disturbed by many incursions from neighboring foes. But, brave as pious, Henry upheld the rights of his people, conquered revolts among his own subjects, and subdued the Poles, Bohemians, and Moravians. He drove the Saracens from Italy, where they were outraging the peace of Christendom; and when days of peace dawned upon him, he journeyed through his dominions, repressing abuses, establishing justice, and protecting religion. He expelled all flatterers from his court, and showed abundant favor to those who reproached him for any fault. He would have resigned his sceptre and retired from the world, had not his spiritual adviser prevented him from so doing. The great emperor died at Halberstadt on July 14, 1024.

. . . Give unto the Church
The lilies of monarchy, and God
Himself will give you kings.

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

To pray for peace and concord among Christian kings and princes.

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL

IN the year 1265 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, the sixth General of the Order of the Carmelites; and holding in her hand the form of a scapular, addressed him thus: "Receive, beloved son, the scapular of thy Order; it is a mark of the privilege I have obtained for thee and all the children of Carmel. Whosoever dies whilst wearing this habit shall be preserved from eternal pains. It is a sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, and a pledge of peace and of eternal alliance." It is, then, piously believed that our Blessed Mother will obtain for all the wearers of her scapular of Mount Carmel the graces of sincere conversion and final perseverance. Many years after her apparition to St. Simon she made a revelation to Pope John XXII., to the end that she promised to assist the souls of the members of the Mount Carmel confraternity in Purgatory, and to effect their speedy release, especially on the Saturday immediately after their death.

Hail, thou Lady of the Mountain!
Rearing up its stately height:
Emblematic of thy graces,
Glowing in immortal light.
Mother of Mount Carmel, hear,
Shades are falling, night is near.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To wear the scapular of Mount Carmel with devout and persevering reverence.

JULY 17.

ST. ALEXIS, Confessor.

ST. ALEXIS was born at Rome in 350 of a noble and wealthy family, which was likewise adorned by the brightness of its Christian virtues. The young saint, being urged by his relatives to marry, fled away to Edessa to embrace a more perfect life, to which he felt himself attracted by divine inspiration; and he dwelt in that town in poverty and obscurity for seventeen years. His sanctity having attracted public notice, Alexis fled once more from the admiration which he excited; and the course of events leading him back to Rome, he went to his father's stately home, to crave an asylum as an unknown beggar. There, again for seventeen years, he led his favorite life of complete humiliation and self-abnegation; and it was only at his blessed death that the secret of his life was made known.

Thy father's servants still to thee
Gave alms in daily bread—
Bride, father, mother, thou didst see
Pass by thy lowly shed;
And spake no word, and made no sign,
But let earth's joys go by,
To fix each hope and aim of thine
On joys that never die.

ELLEN DOWNING.

Favorite Practice.

To deny one's self innocent pleasures in satisfaction for past indulgence in unlawful ones.

JULY 18.

ST. SYMPHROSIA, Martyr.

DURING the persecution of Licinius, Getulus and Amantius his brother, both military tribunes, were among the blessed martyrs. Getulus left a widow named Symphrosia, who, with her seven sons, trod in the footsteps of the brave Getulus, and trained her children to be all fervent Christians. The martyr's family having been denounced to the emperor Adrian, he required them to be summoned before the tribunal, and ordered them to sacrifice to the gods. They all boldly refused to deny Christ. Symphrosia was tortured cruelly, and then thrown into the Tiber, with a stone tied to her neck. Her brave sons, equally constant, were bound to stakes placed around the temple of Hercules. Thus secured, their limbs were dislocated by means of cords and pulleys, and their torments finally ended by the sword

Martyrs, too, when racked with pain,
And tortured by the tyrant's chain,
Have triumphed in that sweet refrain,
Sursum Corda!

VERY REV. JOHN A. ROCHFORD, O.P.

Favorite Practice.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

ST. VINCENT OF PAUL, Confessor.

THIS great apostle of charity was born in France in 1576, in the diocese of Dax, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1600. A chain of providential events led him to Paris, where his zeal effected the greatest wonders. He founded the Order of the Priests of the Mission, called Lazarists, and also established the Order of the Sisters of Charity, whose devotedness is well known through the whole world. He established missions and hospitals for the galley-slaves, besides founding the hospitals of La Pitié, Bicêtre, the Salpêtrière, the Foundlings, the Holy Name of Jesus, and that of St. Reine in Burgundy. He furnished supplies to whole provinces desolated by war and famine. The simple purity and single-hearted charity of St. Vincent made him beloved and reverenced by all. He died on September 27, 1660, and, after numerous miracles, was canonized in 1737.

Oh! may St. Vincent's Brotherhood
Follow the path he trod,
And teach the young, and tend the sick,
For love, pure love of God!

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To further the interests of the Conferences of St. Vincent of Paul.

JULY 20.

ST. MARGARET, Virgin and Martyr.

ST. MARGARET was the daughter of a pagan priest of Antioch in Pisidia, but, without the knowledge of her father, she was brought up a Christian by the nurse to whom she had been entrusted. When this fact was discovered, the maiden was fourteen years old, and so devoted to Christ that neither promises nor ill treatment could induce her to deny Him. Her father himself denounced her to Olibrius, the governor of the province; but the latter was so captivated with Margaret's virgin beauty that he desired to marry her. The courageous maiden refused to break her vow of chastity or renounce her faith; and the governor, having exhausted every inducement and threat, caused her to be thrown into a dungeon. The devil, it is said, appeared to her there as a great winged dragon; but Margaret banished him with the sign of the cross. She was afterwards scourged, racked, and burnt with red hot-irons, and finally beheaded in the year 275.

Who thinketh on St. Margaret's maiden feet,
Before whose steps the dragon drew aside,
Where, pure of heart, she trod unterrified,—
But findeth in his thought a solace sweet
When hard beset him dragon-shapes of sin,—
Struggles soul's purity alone can win.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

A lively faith in the efficacy of the Sign of the Cross.

JULY 21.

ST. PRAXEDES, Virgin.

IT was during the reign of Antoninus Pius and during the pontificate of Pius I. that there lived in Rome St. Praxedes, the daughter of Pudens, the Roman senator, and sister to St. Pudentiana. She edified the whole city by her virtues, and devoted her large property to the cause of religion and the poor. She ardently desired the crown of martyrdom, but not being permitted to win that glorious distinction, she aided by cheering words and generous alms the confessors and martyrs of Jesus Christ, and manifested in her life a remarkable spirit of prayer and mortification. She died in peace, and was buried beside her holy sister in the Salarian Way. The fame of her sanctity was so widespread that, from very remote times, one of the churches of Rome was dedicated under the title of St. Praxedes.

. . . A sweet shape with dark brown hair,
Half hidden in the gentle crowd ;
Pale as a spirit, sharply slender,
In maiden beauty's crescent splendor.

GEORGE H. MILES.

Favorite Practice.

To remember that great riches must be sanctified by a spirit of generous almsgiving if the possessor would hope to be saved.

JULY 22.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, Penitent.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN was the sister of Lazarus and of Martha, and belonged to the district of Magdala, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Magdalen led a life of luxury and sin. But in the height of her dissolute career, our Lord converted this remarkable woman, and cast out of her the seven devils who possessed her. Henceforth she was devoted heart and soul to her Lord and Master. When He hung upon the cross in agony, Magdalen stood with the Blessed Mother and St. John at its foot, and, last at the cross, was earliest at the tomb. To her the Risen Saviour first appeared, and sent her to announce the happy tidings to St. Peter and the other apostles. After the ascension of Christ into heaven, St. Magdalen is said to have preached the Gospel in France; finally retiring to a wild spot between Marseilles and Toulon, where she lived and died in a cave called Sainte-Beaume.

Thou that hast slept in Error's sleep,
Oh, wouldst thou wake in heaven,
Like Mary kneel, like Mary weep,
Love much, and be forgiven!

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently repeat: "The sins of my youth and my ignorance do not remember, O Lord!"

ST. APOLLINARUS, Bishop and Martyr.

IT is related of St. Apollinarus that he accompanied the apostle St. Peter from Antioch, and was for some time his companion and assistant at Rome. Later, St. Peter, having consecrated the holy man bishop, sent him to preach the Gospel on the eastern coast of Italy, at Ravenna. In that city Apollinarus preached with such success that he gathered together a large congregation, and performed miracles. He overcame the demons, and silenced, wherever he came, the voice of the false oracles. The heathens, filled with rage at all these wonders, cast the holy bishop into prison, whence his jailor assisted him to escape; but his enemies pursued him, and, having overtaken him outside the gates of Ravenna, they fell upon him and so beat and wounded him that when his disciples found him, soon afterwards, he expired in their arms. This was in the first century, and in the last year of the reign of the emperor Vespasian.

And teach me how to kiss the rod of sorrow,
And how to see the gain in every loss,
And up the pathway, rugged, steep, and narrow,
To bear my cross!

JOHN ARTHUR HENRY

Favorite Practice.

To be prepared, when leading a godly life, to suffer persecution.

ST. LUPUS, Bishop.

ST. LUPUS, by reason of his sanctity and in spite of all opposition on his part, was raised in the fifth century to the bishopric of Troyes. He accompanied St. Germain of Auxerre to England (in obedience to the direction of his superiors), in order to combat there the Pelagian heresy, and had the glory of entirely uprooting it. After his return to Troyes that city was threatened by an invasion from the notorious Attila, who had already with his Huns laid waste Thrace, Syria, and Greece, and a number of the principal towns of Gaul. During three days and nights St. Lupus and his flock remained in prayer, and then the brave bishop went forth to meet the invader. "I am the scourge of God," said the king of the Huns, "and am come to destroy you." "Beware!" replied Lupus, "God crushes the instruments He has made use of." This bold reply so astonished and startled Attila that he turned his army aside, and marching to the plains of Méry, was defeated there. St. Lupus died in 478.

Thou, Lord, who wilt not suffer that Thy glory
They should usurp who in their might put trust—
. . . . . .
Or be permitted to oppress Thy just,
Then, mocking, cry to heaven, "Within what place
Abides the God of these? where hideth He His face?"

FERNANDO DE HERRERA.

Favorite Practice.

To lean in confidence on the arm of God, no matter how many or how powerful the evils that assault us.

JULY 25.

ST. JAMES, the Apostle.

ST. JAMES THE GREAT was the brother of St. John the Evangelist. They were fishermen, called to quit all and follow Christ (their kinsman according to the flesh), who showered upon them many special favors. They were His companions with St. Peter at His Transfiguration on Thabor and in His agony at Gethsemane. On account of the early impetuosity of their zeal our Lord styled them Boanerges, or the Sons of Thunder. After faithfully preaching the Gospel for the space of ten years, St. James was beheaded at Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa about the Feast of Easter, A.D. 42. He was the first of the apostles to suffer martyrdom. It was on the 25th of July that his relics were translated to Compostella in Spain; and he has become the patron saint of the Spanish nation.

Lead me to Mercy's ever-flowing fountains;
For thou my shepherd, guard, and guide shalt be;
I will obey thy voice, and wait to see
Thy feet all beautiful upon the mountains.

From the Spanish of FRA LOPE DE VEGA, O.S.F.

Favorite Practice.

To sow good seed and water it faithfully, remembering that God alone can give the increase.

JULY 26.

ST. ANNE, Mother of the Blessed Virgin.

ST. ANNE, the mother of the ever-immaculate Virgin Mary, was the spouse of St. Joachim or Heli. They were already far advanced in years when God bestowed upon them that illustrious Daughter whom all generations were to call Blessed. From an early age they dedicated this cherished child to the service of the altar of the Lord. Tradition tells that St. Joachim died soon after the Presentation of the infant Mary in the Temple, but that St. Anne lived until her wonderful daughter was eleven years old. As the epitome of the Blessed Virgin's sanctity is given in those few words, "Mary, of whom was born JESUS," so the holiness of the spouse of Joachim may find expression in one brief but significant phrase, "Anne, of whom was born the MOTHER OF GOD."

And when, in the fulness of time,
The queen without sceptre or crown
Lay hid in the bosom of Joachim's spouse,
How tenderly Heaven looked down
On that poor little Syrian town!

from "Crowned with Stars."

Favorite Practice.

To ennoble lowly duties by great purity of intention.

JULY 27.

ST. PANTALEON, Martyr.

ST. PANTALEON was born of a Christian mother, who instilled into him her own pious sentiments. His father was a pagan, who set him an evil example; and Pantaleon being the physician of the emperor Galerius, the associations of a pagan court relaxed his fervor and weakened his Christian sentiments. A holy old man named Hermolaüs, who had loved him from childhood, learning that Pantaleon had laid aside his Christian observances and was connected with idolaters, undertook to lead him back to God. After hesitating a long while the backslider was at last thoroughly converted. He became as fervent as he had been before lax; and having heroically endeavored to make amends for the past by converting many persons (among whom was his own father), he strove to win the emperor himself to Christianity. He paid for the bold attempt with his life; for Galerius delivered him to the torturers, and he was beheaded in 303.

Blot from my book of life its early stain!
Since days misspent will never more return,
My future path do Thou in mercy trace:
So cause my soul with pious zeal to burn,
That all the trust which in Thy name I place,
Frail as I am, may not prove wholly vain.

PIETRO BEMBO.

Favorite Practice.

By the fervor of the present to make amends for the errors of the past.

JULY 28.

ST. NAZARIUS and CELSUS, Martyrs

ST. NAZARIUS was the son of a Jew named Africanus; but his mother Perpetua was a Christian, and caused her son to be baptized by St. Peter. Nazarius grew up, under his mother's tuition, a fervent Christian. Accompanied by a young disciple named Celsus, he travelled through Cisalpine Gaul, preaching the Gospel and converting many. They came to Genoa, where the people, being obstinate pagans, laid hold of them and flung them into the sea; but the sea, more merciful, refused to drown them. After many wanderings, they came to Milan, where they comforted and encouraged the confessors and martyrs. Some short time afterwards, Nazarius and Celsus, in their turn, suffered together, and were beheaded outside the Porta Romana at Milan.

What tongue can those rich gifts declare
Which Christ for martyrs doth prepare?
Brows that in streams of blood were drowned
Are with refulgent laurels crowned.

Sanctorum meritis.

Favorite Practice.

To correspond carefully to the special graces of God.

JULY 29.

ST. MARTHA, Virgin.

ST. MARTHA was the sister of St. Mary Magdalen and of St. Lazarus. She is said to have been an instrument of God in the conversion of her remarkable sister, having been the one to lead her first to the feet of Christ. St. Martha frequently had the glorious privilege of ministering to the wants of Jesus when He visited the house of Lazarus. It is on that account that she is considered the special patroness of good house-keeping; being, as our Lord's own words would lead us to infer, a thrifty and solicitous care-taker of domestic affairs. According to a Provençal legend, St. Martha was the first after the Blessed Virgin to vow her virginity to God, and the first to found a monastery for women. And there, when she had passed many years in prayer and good works, feeling her end was near, she caused herself to be placed where she could gaze upon the sun shining in the sky, and commanded them to read to her the history of the Passion of Christ; and when they came to the words, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," St. Martha breathed her last.

. . . One whose soul was filled
With love of her Redeemer and the Cross.

J. C. CURTIN.

Favorite Practice.

Not to be solicitous about many things, but about the one thing necessary.

JULY 30.

ST. GERMAIN, Bishop.

THE early youth and manhood of St. Germain, Duke of Auxerre, although that of an honorable citizen, bore little appearance of Christian virtue. Amator, bishop of Auxerre, frequently exhorted the duke to a more fervent life, and once abruptly prophesied to Germain that he would be his successor in the see of Auxerre. This event actually occurred soon after, on the death of Amator, when Germain, becoming bishop, began at once a career of zeal and mortified devotedness which (coupled with his intelligence) made him one of the ablest prelates of Gaul. It was he who accompanied St. Lupus, bishop of Troyes, to England, to destroy the Pelagian heresy there; and it was he, also, who singled out the young St. Genevieve from the crowd in Paris, and gave that great saint to France and the Church. In 448 he was sent with full powers to the court of the emperor Valentinian, and died at Ravenna.

Time is indeed a precious boon,
But with the boon a task is given:
The heart must learn its duty well
To man on earth and God in heaven.

MISS COOK.

Favorite Practice.

If you have begun ill, strive at least to end well.

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, Founder of the Jesuits.

IGNATIUS of Loyola was a noble Spanish knight whose life had been that of a worldling rather than a Christian. Being in the military service, he was wounded at the siege of Pampeluna in 1521. During his convalescence, he began to read certain volumes of the lives of the Saints, merely to while away the time; but the simple narratives ended by kindling in his soul a marvellous ardor for the cause of Christ. He promptly gave himself up to prayer and penance. He applied himself laboriously in the prime of manhood to a necessary course of studies; and accomplished a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. God gave to him great inspirations, and he corresponded to them bravely and generously. In 1534, on the Feast of the Assumption, he made a vow, with nine companions, to devote himself to the salvation of souls, and to place himself at the disposal of the Pope. Thus was founded, in the church of Montmartre, at Paris, the renowned Society of Jesus, of which Ignatius became the first Rector-General. His motto and ruling principle was, *Ad majorem Dei gloriam.* He died July 31, 1556.

Legions who bow at the throne of the King
Echo that leader's name!
Blessèd Ignatius! e'en heaven shall sing
Thy fitting and endless fame.

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To seek in all things the greater glory of God.

August.

AUGUST *sinking, flush'd and fair,*
In the harvest-fields to rest:
"Welcome!" (cries,) "L'Assunta *blest,—*
Queen of heaven! hear our prayer."

E. C. D.

August 1.

ST. PETER'S CHAINS.

HEROD AGRIPPA, having beheaded the apostle St. James, for the satisfaction of the Jews, caused St. Peter in turn to be cast into chains that he might torture him after the Paschal solemnity. In the interval, however, the Church of Jerusalem was praying for his deliverance night and day. On the very eve of Easter, whilst the great Apostle was sleeping in his chains between two soldiers, an angel appeared in the prison, and struck off his fetters. Throwing open the gates, and, leading him to the public highway, the angel accompanied him a few steps, and then vanished. St. Peter, thereupon realizing that he was at liberty, went to knock at the door of the house where the faithful were assembled in prayer. This occurred in the year 43 of the Christian era. St. Peter's chains are still preserved at Rome, and reverenced as being among the most venerable memorials of the faith.

The depth of the abyss may be
The measure of the height of pain
And love and glory that may raise
This soul to God in after-days.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

To beg St. Peter by his holy chains to obtain that our souls may be freed from the chains of sin.

August 2.

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, Bishop and Confessor.

ALPHONSUS MARIA LIGUORI was born of the noble house of Liguori in Marinella, in the suburbs of Naples, September 27, 1696. His childhood was full of piety. Alphonsus practised for some time at the bar with great success, but, having once in an important cause, overlooked a flaw which rendered his argument unsound, the young lawyer was so chagrined that he withdrew entirely from the bar. Enlightened further by divine grace, he resolved to devote himself exclusively to God. He was ordained priest on December 27, 1726. He preached to immense congregations, and gave missions, which wrought innumerable conversions. In November, 1732, St. Alphonsus founded his religious Order of the Redemptorists, and after governing it for thirty years, was chosen bishop of Sant' Agata de' Goti. With deep reluctance Alphonsus accepted the dignity; and it was more than thirteen years later that he received permission from the Pope to retire into one of the houses of his Order. Here he died, enamored of Jesus and Mary, on August 1, 1787.

O happy in their soul's high solitude,
Who commune thus with God, and not with earth!

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

A daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and to the Blessed Virgin's altar.

August 3.

FINDING OF THE RELICS OF ST. STEPHEN, Protomartyr.

UP to the year 415 of the Christian era, the remains of St. Stephen, the Protomartyr, continued undiscovered and deprived of the veneration of the faithful. But in that year, God, who delights to honor the bodies of His saints, permitted a priest named Lucian, living near Jerusalem, to enjoy three times a heavenly vision, in which St. Gamaliel (whom St. Paul called his first master) appeared to him, and pointed out a spot in the vicinity where the relics of St. Stephen were concealed. Lucian communicated this revelation to the Patriarch of Jerusalem; excavations were made at the spot indicated, and human bones discovered, whose authenticity was proven by the great miracles wrought through their agency. They were apportioned among several churches, and in every place similar miracles were wrought. The Fathers of the fifth century amply attest these facts.

To thee, O gracious Lord, we fly,
Beseeching Thee with humble cry;
That, on this martyr's triumph, we
From sin may be absolved by Thee.

Deus tuorum militum.

Favorite Practice.

In imitation of St. Stephen, to pray fervently for your enemies.

August 4.

ST. DOMINIC, Confessor.

ST. DOMINIC was born at Osma in the year 1170. The first efforts of his religious zeal were displayed against the heretical sect of the Albigenses in Languedoc. There it was that he founded the Order of Dominicans, specially charged with preaching in Christian countries, and also with the seeking out or *inquisition* of heretics, with the view of leading them back to God. The addition of torture, which was subsequently resorted to by the civil authorities against such as were obstinate, was in no wise the work of St. Dominic; the Church has never permitted any means to be employed more urgent than those of prayer and persuasion. To his zeal for the conversion of sinners and a great love for the poor, St. Dominic united an extraordinary devotion to the Blessed Virgin. It was he who instituted the holy Rosary in her honor, as well as the custom of saluting that blessed Mother at the beginning of the sermon. He died at Rome in 1221.

When heresy swept o'er the land like a destroying flood,
And tyrants washed their reeking hands in martyrs' holy blood,
St. Dominic's children then, like men, embraced the stake, and stood
Before the burning pile.

VERY REV. THOS. N. BURKE O.P.

Favorite Practice.

Devotion to the holy Rosary.

August 5.

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS.

IN the fourth century, during the pontificate of Pope Liberius, the Blessed Virgin appeared to a pious Christian of illustrious family in Rome, whose name was John, and directed him to build a church in a spot which she pointed out, signifying that, in proof of the reality of the revelation, snow would cover that site on the following night, which was the 5th of August. The church was founded, and bears the name of Our Lady of the Snows It is known throughout Christendom as the church of St. Mary Major; and within its hallowed walls is preserved the cradle wherein the Infant Jesus slumbered. Many illustrious pilgrims have journeyed to the spot from time to time to venerate this relic of the Holy Child, among whom may be mentioned the famous St. Jerome.

Pure as the snows, we say. Ah! never flake
Fell through the brooding air
One half as fair
As Mary's soul was made for Christ's dear sake.
Virgin immaculate!
The whitest whiteness of the Alpine snows,
Beside thy stainless spirit, dusky grows.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

A tender devotion to the Purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

August 6.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD.

"AND after six days Jesus taketh unto Him Peter and James and John His brethren, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart. And He was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His garments became white as snow. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elias talking with Him. Then Peter, answering, said to Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. And as he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." And the disciples, hearing, fell upon their face, and were very much afraid.—St. Matthew xvii. 1–6.

. . . The Blessed Vision
Of our Lord, with light Elysian
Like a vesture wrapped about Him,
Like a garment round Him thrown.

Henry W. Longfellow.

Favorite Practice.

To repeat frequently, "I shall not be satisfied till Thy glory shall appear."

August 7.

ST. CAJETAN, Confessor.

ST. CAJETAN, in 1524, founded in Italy the Order of Theatines, so called because its first superior was Peter Caraffa, archbishop of Theata. It was a congregation of clerks regular, devoted to preaching and the administration of the sacraments. The life of its members was one of strict poverty. "To live the life of the poor without ever asking for any material aid," says a French biographer of St. Cajetan and his community; "to edify the faithful by a modest exterior, solid piety, and pure doctrine, such was the aim of the institution, and such the pervading spirit of the rule." St. Cajetan became the second superior of the Theatines, and died at Naples in 1547.

My wishes are but few,
All easy to fulfil;
I make the limits of my power
The bounds unto my will.

REV. ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

"*Be thou an example of the faithful in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in chastity.*"

August 8.

ST. HORMISDAS, Confessor.

VARANNES V., king of Persia, about the beginning of the fifth century, was still continuing a persecution of the Christians which had been violently inaugurated by his deceased father, Jezdegirdes I. Hormisdas was one of the king's most prominent courtiers, and was denounced as a Christian. The king in vain urged him to abandon the faith. Hormisdas was firm; and the angry monarch ordered him to be stripped of his rich attire and sent to tend the camels belonging to the court. Some time after, Varannes from the palace-windows beheld the brave confessor dressed in rags and exposed to the burning heat of the sun. He sent for him, and again tempted him with promises of favor to apostatize; but again the constancy of Hormisdas remained unshaken. The king enraged, drove him from his presence, and it is believed that he afterwards suffered martyrdom.

The humble garb of wool about me bound,
Formed to no fashion but a lowly vest;
The feet, which, naked, tread the stony ground,
From worldly converse long have closed my breast.

From the Portuguese of Fra Agostinho da Cruz.

Favorite Practice.

To submit meekly to deprivation of this world's goods sooner than offend God.

August 9.

ST. ROMANUS, Martyr.

ST. ROMANUS was one of the soldiers who was set to guard the glorious St. Lawrence during his imprisonment in Rome in the third century. Being a pagan, Romanus wondered at the supernatural joy manifested by St. Lawrence at the thought of his approaching martyrdom. Questioning his captive, and learning the source of such happiness, Romanus begged the holy confessor to instruct and baptize him; which was no sooner done than Romanus openly displayed his delight, and proclaimed himself boldly to be a Christian. He was at once handed over to the torturers, and after being tormented in divers ways, was finally beheaded the day before St. Lawrence had to appear before the tribunal, in the year 258.

. . . Wonderful is that
Splendor and brightness
Which every one of things
With splendor enlightens,
And afterwards
Entirely rules.

From King Alfred's *Metres of Boëthius.*

Favorite Practice.

To endeavor to cultivate a cheerful exterior in suffering.

August 10.

ST. LAWRENCE, Martyr.

ST. LAWRENCE was the disciple and friend of Pope Sixtus, the martyr, and was the chief of the seven deacons of Rome. When the holy Pontiff was dragged to the place of torture, Lawrence longed with tears to accompany him, but Sixtus cheered him and foretold to him that *his* turn would come three days later. And so it came to pass that the emperor, imagining the Christians to have amassed a store of secret treasures, despatched the prefect of Rome with orders to take possession of them. St. Lawrence admitted that he and his brethren possessed those treasures, but begged time to gather them together. And on the following day, he showed the prefect all the orphans, all the old, poor, and infirm people, whom the Church regards as her treasures. The prefect was so enraged that he caused St. Lawrence to be lacerated with rods, and torn with iron hooks, and then roasted upon live coals. In the midst of the torture he cried out to the executioners with joy, "One side is sufficiently roasted; now turn me on the other side!" He expired, praying for Rome, on August 10, 258.

Heaven-born, the soul a heavenward course must hold:
Beyond the visible world she soars.

From the Italian of MICHAEL ANGELO.

Favorite Practice.

To beg of God daily a share in the burning love of St. Lawrence.

ST. TIBURTIUS, Martyr.

TIBURTIUS was the son of the judge Chromatius, who became a Christian under curious circumstances. In the discharge of his judicial office during the persecution of Diocletian, he was called to sentence to martyrdom St. Tranquillinus, who told his judge that on receiving baptism he (Tranquillinus) had been released from the pains of gout, from which he had previously suffered. Chromatius, being a sufferer from the same disease, caused himself to be instructed in the faith; and on being baptized he also rejoiced in a like cure. This miracle caused the conversion of his family. His son Tiburtius made such progress in Christian virtue that he was ordained sub-deacon; but while discharging those holy functions, he was denounced and put to the torture. He was then beheaded, three miles from the city of Rome.

Ah! the tranquil shore of God's sweet calm grace,
My heart, is thy only resting place!

FATHER A. J. RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

To reverence deeply the inestimable grace of ***baptism.***

August 12.

ST. CLARA, Virgin.

CLARA D'ASSISI was the eldest daughter of Favorino and Ortolana Sciffo, who early devoted herself secretly to a religious life. As her great beauty, rank and wealth exposed her to continual temptations and offers of marriage, she sought council of St. Francis of Assisi. He advised her at once to renounce the world; and on the following Palm-Sunday he gave her the habit in his chapel of the Porzioncula. Clara then sought refuge in the convent of San Paolo, whence her father and kinsmen sought to force her back into the world; but the brave young virgin clung to the altar and called on God for aid, so that they were constrained to leave her in her retreat. Her sister Agnes, her mother Ortolana, and other noble ladies of Assisi eventually joined her there: and so began the foundation of the Poor Clares. The rule was as austere as that of St. Francis, and the holy foundress renounced all claim to the great wealth which became hers on the death of her father. She died on August 11, 1255, illustrious for miracles.

. . . A rarer grace,
A thornier path, had led her to embrace
A life of sacrifice—to pray, to plead,
And win at a great cost a priceless meed.

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently ponder upon the Beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

ST. MAXIMUS, Martyr.

IN the seventh century of the Christian era the tenets of Monothelism began to prevail at the court of Heraclius, in which St. Maximus held an important office. To escape the atmosphere of heresy, Maximus withdrew to a monastery at Chrysopolis, but, fearing persecution, he later retired into Africa. When Constans succeeded Heraclius, being likewise an ardent Monothelist, he determined, if possible, to win over the holy and learned exile to that heresy. Maximus was, accordingly, arrested and brought to Constantinople, where his orthodoxy was tested in vain by the most violent temptations and the most cruel tortures. He was urged, at last, to merely allow it to be reported that, through respect to the emperor, he had given in his adherence. The brave confessor firmly declined. He was beaten with clubs, his tongue cut out, and his hand struck off. This was in the year 662; and he is believed to have died the same year in prison, at the age of eighty-two.

. . . On his aged limbs slow-borne,
In these last days that close his earthly course,
He, in his soul's strong purpose finds new force,
Though weak with age, though by long travel worn.

From the Italian of PETRARCH.

Favorite Practice.

To confess Christ before men without dissimulation.

August 14.

ST. EUSEBIUS, Martyr.

EUSEBIUS was a Christian priest of Syria, of an extremely gentle but firm disposition. Having been summoned for the faith before the governor of Palestine, the latter was so moved with the meek but courageous speech of his prisoner that he did not venture to condemn him, but sent him to the emperor Maximian, who was then in Palestine. Maximian, in his turn, although he was of a brutal nature and had already been warned against the fascination exercised by Eusebius, was so subdued by the sight of that venerable face radiant with peace and happiness, and so overcome by the gentle tones of the confessor, that he found himself, also, unable to pass sentence, but sent Eusebius back again to the governor with the astounding injunction to judge the accused *according to the rules of equity!* The governor, thereupon, like Pilate, sought to release him, but Eusebius desired too ardently the crown of martyrdom, and he was finally beheaded.

The soul wherein God dwells (what church can holier be?)
Becomes a walking-tent of heavenly majesty.

From the German of Rev. J. Scheffler.

Favorite Practice.

To disarm persecution by a meek and gentle deportment.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

THE holy and immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, died at Ephesus at an age not precisely ascertained, but she is said to have survived the Ascension of Our Lord a number of years, being the counsel and refuge of the early Christians in all their doubts and necessities. According to the most generally received belief, she was deposited in the tomb; but a pious and ancient tradition holds that, like her divine Son, she rose again from death on the third day, and was assumed, both body and soul, into heaven, leaving the place of her brief sepulture filled with odorous and beautiful flowers. This festival not only commemorates the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into the glories of Paradise, but also her triumphant Coronation there as Queen of heaven and earth, of angels and of men.

Joy in the courts of Sion! Bow,
Saints, angels! as on Mary's brow
Gleams bright yon crown of dazzling sheen,
And Heaven, exultant, greets its Queen.

REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To beseech our blessed Mother by her holy death and assumption into heaven to obtain for us the precious grace of final perseverance.

ST. HYACINTH, Confessor.

WHEN St. Dominic was at Rome in 1218, Ivo, bishop of Cracow and chancellor of Poland, arrived there on a mission to the Holy See. In his train were his two nephews, Hyacinth and Ceslas Ivo, moved by the preaching of St. Dominic and the success which attended his mission, begged him to send some Dominicans to preach the Gospel in his distant and half-savage diocese. Dominic replied that all his missionaries were engaged elsewhere. Hyacinth, the eldest of Ivo's nephews, who was remarkable for his virtue and talents, felt within him the divine call. He and his cousin Ceslas offered themselves as missionaries to their native land; and both took the Dominican habit, and pronounced their vows at Rome the same year, 1218. For forty years St. Hyacinth preached the Gospel in the wild countries of the north; and at last, worn out with fatigue, he expired at his own monastery in Cracow, on August 15, 1257.

For fadeless fame, for recompense eternal,
He, ceaseless toiler, wrought;
Through wild and waste, safe led by Strength supernal,
A worthy prize he sought.

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To seek what will be profitable not to yourself alone, but to many.

ST. MAMMESIUS, Martyr.

ST. MAMMESIUS was a poor shepherd of Cappadocia, who was called from his obscurity to obtain the glorious palm of martyrdom. In the year 274 of the Christian era, when the persecution of Aurelian was raging, this young Christian was denounced and condemned to be scourged to death. Although in tender youth, the faith and courage of Mammesius were worthy a stalwart soldier of Christ; and after enduring with unflinching patience the torture of the lash, the young shepherd expired under the cruel blows and went to receive the crown of life. Thus is the wisdom of God hidden from the wise and great; but revealed unto the poor and humble.

Sweet as the tender fragrance which survives
When martyred flowers breathe out their little lives;
Sweet as a song which once consoled our pain,
But never will be sung to us again,
Is thy remembrance.

LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect that no matter how weak or lowly one may be, he can do, if faithful, a great work for Christ.

August 18.

ST. HELEN, Mother of Constantine the Great.

N his accession to the imperial throne, Constantine the Great declared himself in favor of Christianity. It was not, however, until after his miraculous victory over Maxentius that he actually embraced the faith and induced his mother Helen to do likewise. Helen was then far advanced in years, but the precious seed fell upon good soil, and the august princess set to work with inconceivable ardor. She was nearly eighty years old when she journeyed to the Holy Land, sought and discovered the Cross of our Redeemer; and there erected monuments worthy of God and the empire. She founded churches, monasteries, and hospitals, and lent aid to every enterprise favorable to the interests of religion. Humble as fervent, she mingled unobtrusively with the crowds assisting at the public services, and afforded a salutary example to all the faithful. St. Helen died in 328, bequeathing to her imperial son the precious legacy of a mother's wise counsels.

When our souls shall leave this dwelling,
The glory of one fair and virtuous action
Is above all the 'scutcheons on our tomb,
Or silken banners over us.

JAMES SHIRLEY.

Favorite Practice.

Devotion to the Passion and the Holy Cross of our Lord

August 19.

ST. LOUIS of TOULOUSE, Confessor.

LOUIS of Anjou was the son of Charles of Anjou, king of Naples and Sicily, and the nephew of St. Louis, king of France. His mother, Maria of Hungary, watched over him from childhood and brought him up in habits of pious self-denial. When Louis was only fourteen his father was taken prisoner by the king of Aragon, and was obliged to deliver up his three sons with several of his nobles as hostages. Louis spent several years in captivity. The inhuman treatment he experienced in that life of solitude and exile so impressed the gentle spirit of the young prince that, on regaining his liberty in 1294, he yielded his right to the kingdom to his brother Robert, and became a Franciscan at the age of twenty-two. Soon afterwards, Pope Boniface created him bishop of Toulouse. He travelled to his diocese barefoot and in his religious habit; and during his brief episcopate won the hearts of all by his many virtues. Having gone to Provence on a mission of charity, he died at the castle of Brignolles in his twenty-fourth year.

Fame, honor, beauty, state, trains, blood, and birth,
Are but the fading blossoms of the earth.

SIR KENELM DIGBY.

Favorite Practice.

To endeavor, as St. Louis did, to draw spiritual profit from temporal evils.

August 20.

ST. BERNARD, Abbot and Doctor.

ST. BERNARD was born in 1190 at a little village near Dijon. His father was a nobleman, and his mother, Alice, such an admirable woman that all the biographers of Bernard unite in giving her the credit of his early education. Her children in turn became remarkable men and women, but St. Bernard surpassed them all. He was not more than twenty when he entered the reformed Benedictine monastery of Citeaux, which he only quitted in obedience to his superiors, in order to found the renowned abbey of Clairvaux. In a few years the name of Bernard had become famous throughout Christendom. The arbiter of the sovereigns of the world and of the Church, he was called to decide, as supreme judge, affairs of the highest moment. He conceived and inspired a Crusade to the Holy Land, and thousands of warriors answered his call with the cry "God wills it!" He uprooted schisms and heresies, and glorified God and His Church by his solid virtues as well as by his successful labors. St. Bernard died in 1153.

Through Christian souls Thy Passion-feasts
Like stirring peals of victory thrill:
Despised, rejected,—Man of grief,
Yet our triumphant Leader still.

ELIZA ALLEN STARR.

Favorite Practice.

To first rule yourself if you would successfully rule or direct others.

ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, Widow.

ST. JANE FRANCES FREMIOT, in co-operation with St. Francis de Sales, was the foundress of the religious Order of the Visitation. Married in her youth to the Baron de Chantal, she made a secret vow that if ever she were left a widow she would consecrate her life to God in holy religion. Her husband died when she was about twenty-nine years of age; and for the ten succeeding years she devoted herself to the training and settlement of her four children. Then, she renounced the world, and began, under St. Francis' direction, the foundation of the Visitation Order. In quitting her home for the convent, she was obliged to step over the body of her son, who threw himself prostrate at the threshold But although St. Jane burst into tears at the sight of her son's affliction, she pressed forward to her sacrifice. Before her death, Madame de Chantal was able to reckon seventy-five houses of her Order in France and Savoy. She died in 1641, and was canonized in 1769.

Aim at high virtue; in thy soul destroy
All but the sacred impulses that give
Grace upon earth an angel's life to live.
Seek for naught else: in this surrender lies
Peace without end.

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

To carefully cultivate the gift of faith.

ST. SYMPHORIAN, Martyr.

SYMPHORIAN was a Christian of noble family living at Autun in the second century. His virtuous parents had early instilled into him a hatred and contempt for the heathen idols; and on one occasion, when the inhabitants of Autun were celebrating a festival in honor of the goddess Cybele, bearing her statue in triumph upon a char ot, Symphorian mocked at the power of the goddess and the folly of her worshippers. He was at once denounced to the governor Heraclius, who imprisoned him and threatened to kill him if he would not adore Cybele The bold confessor scoffed at the piece of stone which the pagans called a divinity, and offered to crumble the statue into powder. Heraclius ordered him to be scourged and conducted to the place of execution. On the road thither his holy mother met him, and exhorted him with sublime words to persevere to the end; and the worthy son of such a parent accomplished his sacrifice in the year 170.

Scorning life,
His settled soul refuses to retreat;
O glorious scene, where, in sublimest strife,
High-minded Virtue and Affection meet!

From the Italian of TORQUATO TASSO.

Favorite Practice.

One "Hail Mary" daily for the conversion of idolaters.

August 23.

ST. PHILIP BENITI, Confessor.

ST. PHILIP BENITI was general of the Order of Servites, or Servants of Mary. He preached through all the prominent cities of Europe, and was so universally reverenced for his sanctity that, on the death of Pope Clement IV., the cardinals wished to elevate him to the Chair of St. Peter. But the humble Servite fled away to evade the dignity. Italy was then torn by the factions of the Guelphs and Ghibellines. St. Philip devoted himself to reconciling the opposing parties and restoring peace to families. But his noble efforts were often met by the roughest usage on the part of his enemies. He was threatened, beaten, and dragged through the mud, his heavenly patience enduring all so sweetly that his most inveterate foes became his ardent admirers. One of them even came to throw himself at St. Philip's feet, craved his pardon, and afterwards, entering the Order of the Servites, died a most edifying death. The gentle Beniti himself passed to his reward in 1285.

. . . And let us learn that man,
Toiling, enduring, pleading (calm, serene),
For those who scorn and slight, is likest God.

MRS. M. J. PRESTON.

Favorite Practice.

To often repeat: "Patience hath a perfect work; that you may be perfect and entire, failing in nothing"

August 24.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW seems to be the same person known as "Nathaniel," who was led to our Lord by the apostle St. Philip, and of whom the Divine Lips said: "Behold an Israelite, indeed, in whom there is no guile." Bartholomew is a surname, and signifies Son of Tholmai. This holy apostle carried the light of the Gospel into Arabia, Persia, and the Indies. From India he passed into Phrygia and Lycaonia in Greater Armenia, where, after converting innumerable souls to the faith, he was barbarously flayed alive by command of King Astirages, and then beheaded, A.D. 44.

'Tis Thou who drawest me, my loving Lord!
Mangled and nailed to a disgraceful tree,
Thy wounded Body steals my heart from me,
Thy death 'mid scoffings strikes its deepest chord.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To beseech God, through the intercession of St. Bartholomew, to grant you a pure and guileless heart.

August 25.

ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE, Confessor.

LOUIS IX., king of France, was born at Poissy in 1215, and combined all the qualities of a hero, statesman, and saint. His devout mother, Blanche of Castile, from his infancy impressed upon him that it was better to incur death than commit one mortal sin, and even the infamous Voltaire bore this testimony to the character of St. Louis: "*Il n'est guère donné à l'homme de pousser la vertu plus loin.*" A monument of the holy king's charity and wisdom exists in his code of laws known as "the Ordinances of St. Louis," which became as dear to the French as the laws of Edward the Confessor were to the Anglo-Saxon race. His tenderness, truth, and generous consideration for the rights of others, made him the idol of his own nation and the umpire of all neighboring kings. His private character was rendered inexpressibly beautiful by his fidelity to his wife, his obedience to his noble mother, and paternal love for his numerous offspring. He led two Crusades to the Holy Land; and died at Carthage in the year 1270.

His pure baptismal robe of grace
Unstained through life he wore:
The lily-sceptre of the just
King Louis brightly bore.

HARRIET SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To frequently implore God to grant to the kingdoms of the earth such rulers as St. Louis.

August 26.

ST. ZEPHYRINUS, Pope and Martyr.

THE fifth persecution against the Christians was in progress when Pope Zephyrinus ascended the papal chair. He neglected nothing, and even exposed his own life, to uphold and cheer the confessors. The persecution only ceased at length to give place to the outbreak of numerous heresies. Eight heresiarchs put forth their false doctrines, and Tertullian fell into heresy and did not acknowledge his error. Natalis, who had generously confessed the faith, fell in like manner, but, touched by divine grace, cast himself in time at the feet of Pope Zephyrinus, and humbly sought for reconciliation. The holy Pontiff received the strayed sheep, and continued in person to contend manfully against the upholders of heresy. He is believed to have suffered martyrdom, his death taking place in the year 219.

Reliant on God's aid, he rests
His hand upon the helm,
Guiding the Bark that foes surround
But never overwhelm.

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

To say to yourself from time to time, "When cedars have fallen, how shall the frail reeds stand?"

August 27.

ST. CESARIUS, Bishop.

ST. CESARIUS was the archbishop of Arles in the sixth century. The gentleness of his character found expression in his writings; and his piety established public ceremonies in his diocese which were admirably organized. His charity was so great that he even sold the sacred vessels of the Church in order to ransom captives whose souls were exposed to danger. Having been falsely accused of conspiring against the state, he was exiled from his diocese by Alaric and Theodoric successively; but both times the false charges were made to redound to the glory of the gentle bishop, and he was welcomed back to his see with open arms, the last time loaded with the costly gifts of Theodoric, which Cesarius at once disposed of in order to give the proceeds to his beloved poor. He died in 542.

Far off he descries an Elysium blest,
With gush of clear fountains, and music, and rest;
Religion's blest teaching his spirit controls,
And points all his hopes to the country of souls.

MRS. M. S. WHITAKER.

Favorite Practice.

By doing well to "put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

AUGUST 28.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Bishop and Doctor.

AUGUSTINE, the gifted son of St. Monica and the pagan Patricius, from his early years displayed a wonderful genius and thirst for knowledge. Having become entangled in his youth in the bonds of heresy and vice, he would have been lost but for the prayers and tears of his devoted mother. He was teaching at Milan when the eloquence of St. Ambrose attracted him to a Catholic church. For a long time he struggled between the violence of his passions and the force of divine grace; but having read a passage in St. Paul to which a heavenly voice directed him, the battle was at an end, and the prayer of St. Monica granted. He was baptized by St. Ambrose; and having returned to Hippo, his native town, he was made priest and, eventually, bishop and doctor of the Church. He died in 430 in such strict poverty that he made no will, having nothing left to bequeath.

"*Tolle lege! tolle lege!*"
(High and clear in sweet command,)
"*Tolle lege! tolle lege!*"
Sang an angel close at hand;
"In thy darkness and thy need,
Take and read, oh! take and read!"

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

"*Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh.*"

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

"FOR Herod had apprehended John, and bound him, and put him in prison, because of Herodias, his brother's wife. For John said to him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. And when he would have put him to death, he feared the people, because they esteemed him a prophet. But on Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask of him. But she, being instructed before by her mother, said, Give me here in a dish the head of John the Baptist. And the king was struck sad: yet because of his oath, and for them that sat with him at table, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a dish, and it was given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother."—ST. MATTHEW xiv. 3–12.

. . . Ah! kneel before Him, meek and grave,
And show the necklace Herod gave.
. . . . . .
That circlet round thy shining throat
Is dearer to Him far than gold:
And when thou say'st "Forgive them, Lord!"
Thy voice shall stir Him, as of old.

From "Domus Dei"

Favorite Practice.

To avoid rash vows or resolutions.

August 30.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, Virgin.

THIS first canonized female saint of the New World was born at Lima in Peru, in 1586, and was baptized Isabella; but because of the lovely roseate bloom upon her cheeks when an infant in the cradle, she was called by the name of Rose. A flower of sanctity whose fragrance has filled the whole Christian world, St. Rose is the patroness of America, the St Theresa of transatlantic Spain. She was distinguished for the remarkable austerity of her innocent life. Her usual food was an herb, bitter as wormwood. When compelled by her mother to adorn her head with a wreath of roses, she so adjusted the chaplet on her brow that it was transformed into a crown of thorns. And, to render herself distasteful to the host of suitors who were attracted by her beauty, the spouse of Christ strove to disfigure the lovely complexion to which she owed her name. Rejecting all proposals of marriage, St. Rose maintained by the labor of her hands her beloved parents, whom reverses of fortune had sadly reduced. She took the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic, and died in 1617.

First flow'ret of the desert wild,
Whose leaves the sweets of grace exhale,
We greet thee, Lima's sainted child,
Rose of America! all hail!

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To consistently prefer interior to exterior loveliness.

August 31.

ST. RAYMOND, Confessor.

ST. RAYMOND was a professed brother of the Order of Redemptorists or "Mercy." He was so singularly zealous for the salvation of souls, and animated with such a spirit of charity and prudence, that, whilst still young, his superiors sent him to Barbary in the difficult office of "redeemer." There he negotiated for the ransom of captives as long as his resources lasted; and when his means were at an end, he offered himself personally as a hostage for those whose salvation was in danger. In that position he preached publicly; but his zeal was rewarded by being scourged, dragged through the mud, and condemned to impalement. Finally, to check his zealous tongue, the barbarians pierced his lips and put a padlock on his mouth. He spent eight months in this enforced silence and torture, until his superiors ransomed him. On his return to Europe the Pope created him a cardinal, and sent for him to come to Rome. But St. Raymond died on the journey thither, in 1240, at the early age of thirty-seven.

To work is good enough,
Still better is to pray;
The best—to love thy God,
And not a word to say.

From the German of Angelus Silesius.

Favorite Practice.

To preach the love of Christ by our silence as well as by our speech.

September.

Beauteous babe, her arms, between,
Sweet SEPTEMBER *seems to say,*
"Hither, haste, and homage pay
To the little new-born Queen!"

E. C. D.

SEPTEMBER 1.

ST. GILES, Abbot.

ST. GILES was an Athenian of illustrious birth and great intellectual gifts who, in the fifth century, withdrew to a hermitage in one of the forests of Gaul, in order to escape the admiration and zealous attentions of his fellow-citizens. He subsisted on the roots and wild fruits of the forest, and for his drink varied the pure water of a brook with the milk of a hind, which was the sole companion of his solitude. On one occasion, the gentle animal, being pursued by hunters, fled to the feet of its protector and thus betrayed the secret abode of St. Giles. The hermit, finding himself in a short time venerated by the surrounding population and their rulers, was obliged to listen to the appeals of the numerous disciples who gathered around him, and therefore established a monastery in the diocese of Nismes. There, in later years, the relics of St. Giles were preserved, and honored by general pilgrimages of the faithful, until the sacrilegious and destructive rage of the Calvinists constrained the monks to remove the sacred remains to Toulouse.

I sowed the soil of peace.
My bliss was in the spring;
And, day by day, the fruit I ate
That Virtue's tree did bring.

REV. ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To be considerate for the needs of dumb animals.

SEPTEMBER 2.

ST. STEPHEN, King and Confessor.

ST. STEPHEN was the Vaivode of Hungary, and as he was a pious prince he did all in his power to complete the conversion of Hungary, a work inaugurated by his noble father. He often accompanied the missionaries whilst they were evangelizing the people, and when Christianity was at last solidly established, Stephen sent a monk to the Sovereign Pontiff to obtain full confirmation of what had been accomplished. The Pope, Sylvester II., not only gave his pontifical approval to the great work, but conferred on Stephen the title of King. The pious Vaivode accepted with the most reverential humility the dignity conferred upon him; and Hungary, being placed under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin, was civilized in due course of time, and became one of the most powerful nations of Europe. St. Stephen died in 1038, mourned by all as a brave and virtuous prince.

Where blazed the sacred fire, rang out the vesper-bell;
Where the fugitive found shelter became the hermit's cell;
And Hope hung out its symbol to the innocent and good,
For the cross o'er the moss of the pointed summit stood.

DENIS FLORENCE MCCARTHY.

Favorite Practice.

A noble zeal for the spiritual as well as temporal welfare of one's inferiors.

SEPTEMBER 3.

ST. SERAPIA, Martyr.

BORN in Antioch and possessed of fortune, the young virgin Serapia, having taken a vow of chastity, disposed of her property, distributed the proceeds to the poor, and, quitting her native place, entered the service of a Roman lady named Sabina, whom she converted to the faith. During the persecution of Adrian, Serapia was denounced as a Christian, and was consigned to a house of ill-fame. But the Lord protected her purity and did battle for her. She was then thrown upon a burning pile to be consumed by fire; but the flames subsided around her, and left her unhurt. The prefect Berillus, almost despairing of destroying the gentle virgin, ordered her to be beheaded. Thus, at last, Serapia won her crown; and Sabina, having placed her holy remains in her own tomb, in a year's time obtained also, in her turn, the palm of martyrdom, and was interred beside her friend.

. . . She softly speaks the while,
And heaven's full glory pictures to my heart;
Beams of that heaven in her my eyes behold,
And now, e'en now, in thought my wings unfold
To soar with her and mingle with the blest.

From the Italian of CARDINAL CORNELIO BENTIVOGLIO.

Favorite Practice.

To remember that the very weakest grow strong when God nerves the soul in purity and faith.

St. Albert's College Libra

SEPTEMBER 4.

ST. IDA, Widow.

ST. IDA was formed to virtue by the example of St. Odilla and St. Gertrude, the sisters of Charlemagne. The latter cherished a high esteem for the friend of his sisters, and bestowed her hand in marriage on one of the most distinguished princes of his court. St. Ida and her husband passed some happy years together in a wedded union which was all the more perfect because their tastes for piety and good works were identical. Her noble spouse being taken from her by death, St. Ida became the edification of the imperial court by her fervor, charity, patience, and love of the poor. She strove earnestly to conform her life to that of our Lord Jesus Christ. Secretly she fasted and mortified herself; and having built a little oratory which she dedicated to the Mother of God, she was accustomed to retire thither unseen and remain prostrate praying before the image of the Holy Virgin. St. Ida died towards the year 840.

Thus sorrow, touched by Thee, grows bright
With more than rapture's ray;
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day!

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

To learn from St. Ida that one may become a saint even amid the distractions of a court.

SEPTEMBER 5.

ST. LAWRENCE JUSTINIAN, Bishop.

BORN at Venice, in 1380, of a noble family, St. Lawrence Justinian at the age of nineteen entered the Congregation of the Canons Regular of St. George of Alga, and became distinguished in his community by his fervor, humility, and other virtues. After having, in consequence, been elected General of his Order in 1433, he was appointed bishop of Venice by Pope Eugenius IV. Here his sanctity shone forth in brilliant colors. He was accustomed to style the poor and unfortunate his "household," and therefore granted them an audience whenever they wished it. He deprived himself personally of all the accessories of his high position, and lived an austerely poor life, in order to amply supply the wants of his adopted family. He became the idol of his flock. He reformed all abuses in his diocese, and equalled, at last, even the Doge in authority. St. Lawrence died in 1455, illustrious for his miracles.

Generous as brave,
Affection, kindness, the sweet offices
Of love and duty, were to him as needful
As his daily bread.

SAMUEL ROGERS.

Favorite Practice.

To tend the poor lovingly for the sake of Him whom they represent.

SEPTEMBER 6.

ST. ELEUTHERIUS, Abbot.

ELEUTHERIUS was the abbot of St. Mark's monastery, near Spoleto, in Italy. In reward for his many virtues, he had been favored by God with the gift of miracles, and exercised great power over evil spirits. But as, of old, the disciples went to our Lord rejoicing that even the demons obeyed them; and as He, lest they should grow vainglorious, reminded them that He had seen Satan falling as lightning from heaven, so it was necessary that St. Eleutherius should be convinced that neither man nor angel hath any power for good save that which is given him from on high. One day when he had cast the devil out of a poor youth, the arch-enemy aroused in the holy abbot's breast an emotion of vainglory. He drew the attention of his monks to the cure of the boy. But the youth straightway became possessed afresh of the devil, and Eleutherius saw the gravity of his fault. He prostrated himself humbly and confessed the sin, and, begging his religious to join him in prayer, the demon again was driven from the boy. St. Eleutherius died about the year 585, after having wrought a miraculous cure in favor of St. Gregory the Great.

When mine eyes have known the vision
Of Thy strength, those choirs Elysian
Hovering near, shall safely bring.

REV. JAMES KENT STONE, C.P.

Favorite Practice.

To guard vigilantly against the inroads of vainglory.

September 7.

ST. CLOUD, Confessor.

ST. CLOUD, or CLODOALD, was the only son of Clodomir, king of Orleans, the brothers of the young prince having been murdered by their uncle Clothaire in his guilty desire to become master of their possessions. Brought up in retirement, St. Cloud was so impressed with the nothingness of all earthly things, that, even when he reached the age to assert his claim to the throne, he declined to embrace the favorable opportunities of success which were offered to him. He renounced the world, and placed himself under the direction of St. Severinus, then living as a recluse near Paris. Later, having been ordained priest, St. Cloud spent a few years in the exercise of his holy ministry; but again mastered by the charms of a secluded life, he withdrew to the spot which now bears his name, founded a monastery there, and died in the year 560, after having edified all by a career of prayer, preaching, and good deeds.

. . . All that's worth a wish—a thought,
Fair Virtue gives unbribed, unbought.
Cease then on trash thy hopes to bind;
Let nobler views engage thy mind.

DR. JOHNSON.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect upon those words, "My kingdom is not of this world."

September 8.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

WHEN the period assigned by the Divine Mercy had come, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Divine Word, coequal with His Father, caused her to be born on earth who was to become His Mother. This babe of benediction, the second Mother of mankind, the child of Joachim and Anna, saw the light in Judea, being of the illustrious family of David. By an exceptional privilege vouchsafed to her who was to become the Mother of God, Mary was conceived and born exempt from all sin, as she was always so to remain; therefore it is that the Church celebrates on this day her holy Nativity. The birthday of her who is the Daughter of the Eternal Father, the Mother of the Eternal Son, and the Spouse of the Divine Spirit, is only second to the natal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, blest fore'er the Mother,
And Virgin full of grace,
Who bore our God, our Brother,
The Saviour of our race!

REV. EDWARD J. SOURIN, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To imitate the purity, meekness, and simplicity of the infant Mary.

SEPTEMBER 9.

ST. OMER, Bishop.

IN 636 a monk in the monastery of Luxeuil in Gaul, named Omer, on account of his many edifying virtues was drawn from his retirement and, much against his will, elevated to the bishopric of Therouanne. St. Omer devoted himself heroically to the duties of his high office. He established his diocese, trained his clergy, and founded churches and monasteries; and besides instructing the small number of Christians under his care, he zealously exerted himself to convert the infidels and to civilize a population corrupt with the leaven of pagan morality. In the midst of his labors for others, St. Omer ever kept in mind his own eternal salvation; and it was his custom, from time to time, to withdraw to his beloved monastery of Luxeuil, there to refresh and strengthen his soul with the invigorating cordial of mingled prayer and penance. The holy bishop died in 667.

Prudence and piety adorned his life,
Unstained with ill, and undisturbed by strife.
Chaste, humble, meek, he kept his heart,
Till bid by Heaven from life depart.

Iste Confessor.

Favorite Practice.

Not to permit our zealous care for the souls of others to distract us from the care of our own salvation.

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE, Confessor.

ONE of the greatest saints of the Augustinian Order is St. Nicholas of Tolentino. This servant of God was born about the year 1239 in the little town of St. Angelo, near Fermo. His parents, having besought and obtained a son through the intercession of St. Nicholas of Myra, bestowed on him the name of that beneficent bishop. He was dedicated to God in infancy, and in very early youth assumed the habit of an Augustinian friar. His eminent sanctity would seem to have been foretold by a star of wonderful splendor which at his nativity is said to have shot through the heavens from St. Angelo, pausing over the city of Tolentino, where he afterwards fixed his residence. In his religious career St. Nicholas was distinguished by his fervent devotion and extraordinary austerities, so that it was remarked of him that "he did not *live*, but *languished* through life." He was also an eloquent preacher. After being favored with innumerable miracles, visions, and revelations, St. Nicholas died in 1309, and was canonized in 1446.

. . . His flutt'ring pulses slowly cease
To time the deeds that went his days to fill;
And calmly, sweetly fades his life away,
As fades the twilight of a cloudless day.

BROTHER AZARIAS.

Favorite Practice.

To hide one's little daily austerities under a sweet, affable exterior.

SEPTEMBER 11.

ST. PAPHNUCIUS, Bishop.

ST. PAPHNUCIUS was the disciple of St. Anthony and one of the holiest bishops of Upper Egypt. During the persecution of Maximinus, because he confessed the faith, he was grievously wounded in the hand and ankle; his right eye was torn out; and he was condemned to labor in the mines. When Constantine the Great restored peace to the Church, Paphnucius reappeared in his diocese; and the glory of his recent sufferings for the faith, as well as his personal sanctity, attracted to him not only the homage of his flock, but that of the Fathers of the Council at Nicea. The emperor delighted in conversing with the holy bishop, and never parted from him without kissing respectfully the scars of those wounds which Paphnucius had endured for Christ. At the Council of Tyre, when a difference had arisen between St. Athanasius and Maximus, patriarch of Jerusalem, Paphnucius was so fortunate as to effect a reconciliation between those who had been calumniated by the enemies of the faith.

Thus he conducts, by holy paths and pleasant,
Innocent souls, and sinful souls forgiven,
Towards the bright palace where our God is present,
Throned in high heaven.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To keep your soul in such holy peace that you may be able to communicate peace to others.

September 12.

ST. SACERDOS, Bishop.

IN the sixth century, the see of Lyons being vacant, St. Sacerdos, against his will and almost by virtue of royal authority, was appointed to succeed St. Leo. The new prelate answered the general expectation formed respecting him by his personal virtues, by his great zeal for the sanctification of his flock and for the destruction of heresy. Childebert, the pious king of Paris, held him in peculiar esteem; and he was so beloved and venerated by his own people that, having died at Paris in or about the year 550, envoys were sent by the faithful of Lyons to bring back the remains of St. Sacerdos to his own see, so that they might preserve even in death the holy body of their departed pastor and bishop. Thus the honors which that sainted prelate had shunned during life, pursued and crowned him in the tomb.

. . . Dying to leave a memory like the breath
Of summers full of sunshine and of showers,—
A grief and gladness in the atmosphere.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To act in all things for the love of God, and He will make you, in your turn, beloved.

ST. AMATUS, Abbot.

ST. AMATUS was a recluse who led an austere life in a cell belonging to the ancient monastery of Agaune. He was called from his retirement to be elevated to the bishopric of Sion in the Valais. Here he labored faithfully in the functions of his high office, and by his sanctity gave universal edification. But the weak Thierry III., influenced by corrupt and evil advisers, became the enemy of the holy Amatus, condemned him without appeal, and exiled him from his diocese. The meek bishop patiently bore this unjust treatment, and withdrew to a monastery, where he died a holy death in 690. Thierry, converted, no doubt, by the prayers of his gentle victim, discovered too late the wrong he had done the saintly man, and sought to repair the past by deeds of mercy.

. . Innocence shall make
False accusation blush, and tyranny
Tremble at patience.

SHAKSPEARE.

Favorite Practice.

Patiently endure wrongs, and it may be that you will convert the sinner who inflicts them upon you.

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.

WHEN the emperor Constantine was wavering in mind between Christianity and idolatry, a luminous cross appeared to him in the heavens bearing the inscription, "In this sign shalt thou conquer." He became a Christian and was victorious over the enemies of the faith. A few years later, his mother, St. Helen, having discovered the true cross upon Mount Calvary, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross was established in the Church; but it was at a later period still—when the emperor Heraclius achieved three wonderful victories over the Persian king Chosroes, who had possessed himself of the holy and precious relic—that this festival took a greater extension and was invested with a higher character of solemnity. The Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross was thereupon instituted in memory of the discovery made by St. Helen, and that of the Exaltation to celebrate the triumphs of Heraclius. This was in the year 629.

O lovely Tree, whose branches wore
The royal purple of His gore!
How glorious does thy body shine,
Supporting members so divine!

VEXILLA REGIS.

Favorite Practice.

To make the sign of the cross in every temptation and danger.

ST. ACHARD, Abbot.

THIS holy man was abbot of Jumièges. One of the great monastic retreats of the seventh century, this famous abbey reckoned nine hundred religious brethren within its walls, all under the administration of St. Achard. The discipline and fervor of this vast community were only equalled by the heavenly charity which animated its members; and when St. Achard lay upon his death bed about the year 687, he concluded his dying discourse to his monks with these beautiful words: "Vainly will you have borne the yoke of penitence and grown old in the austere practices of the cloister if you love not one another. Without such love martyrdom itself would not render you acceptable in the sight of God. Brotherly charity is the soul of all true religion."

The soul that's truly blest knows not of selfishness:
She is one light with God, with God one blessedness.

From the German of REV. JOHANNES SCHEFFLER.

Favorite Practice.

To ponder from time to time the words, "Love is the fulfilment of the law."

ST. CYPRIAN, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. CYPRIAN was bishop of Carthage during the pontificate of the martyr-pope Cornelius, who was his friend. A great severity and zeal to preserve the utmost purity of the faith characterized the whole episcopal career of St. Cyprian. He reformed abuses unsparingly, and imposed public canonical penances on all who had given scandal by any compromise with idolatrous practices. Such were those who were known as holders of *Libella*, who, without being acknowledged as apostates from the faith, still managed to secure from the pagan magistrates certificates of paganism. But although thus severe in discipline and austere in his own exterior, St. Cyprian was filled with unbounded charity for the unfortunate. His labors for the faith were crowned with martyrdom in the year 258.

. . . And sometimes, too, essayed a bolder sound
To wake men's souls to nobleness, and found
Each effort to my heart new guerdons bring.

DR. ROBERT D. JOYCE.

Favorite Practice.

To be severe with ourselves but wisely indulgent to others.

THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

AFTER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI had obtained from Pope Honorius the confirmation of the religious Order of the *Frati Minori* which he had established, he resigned his office of Superior and retired to a solitary cave on Monte Alverna. There he fasted for forty days, and passed the time in all the fervor of prayer and ecstatic contemplation, and at last, transported almost to heaven by the ardor of his desires, he beheld as it were a seraph with six shining wings bearing down upon him from above and between his wings was the form of a Man crucified. By this he understood to be figured a heavenly and immortal intelligence, subject to death and humiliation. And it was manifested to him that he was to be transformed into a resemblance to Christ, not by the martyrdom of the flesh, but by the might and fire of Divine love. When the vision had disappeared, and he had recovered a little from its effect, it was seen that in his hands, his feet, and side, St. Francis carried the wounds of our Saviour.

. . . He, when near to die,
Was given communion with the Crucified,—
Such that the Master's very wounds were stamped
Upon his flesh.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

Devotion to the Five Wounds of our Blessed Lord.

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA, Confessor.

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA entered the Order of St. Augustine the very year that Luther quitted it. He was most thoroughly penetrated with the religious spirit which that wretched apostate had outraged, and he preserved all his life the poor garb of the Order and the spirit of holy poverty which he had there acquired. When he was, later, created archbishop of Valentia, he was sometimes reproached for being clad and fed in a way which did not befit one of the wealthiest prelates of Spain, but his constant reply was, "My vow obliges me to it." And all that he thus economized was applied to the relief of the poor. Filled with a holy fear lest he might not discharge perfectly the duties of his responsible position, St. Thomas longed to be released from the charge of the episcopacy, when an angel appeared to him and revealed that God would bestow on him the reward of his labors on the Feast of Christmas, 1555; and on that festival of our Lord's Nativity, true to the angel's words, St. Thomas of Villanova slept the sleep of the just.

Oh! beckon hence my soul with pitying gesture,
Thy peace to me were dear;
The heavy rain of tears is on my vesture,
My heart is cold with fear.

ROSA MULHOLLAND.

Favorite Practice.

To beseech the Holy Ghost daily for His gift of Fear of the Lord.

SS. JANUARIUS AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

ST. JANUARIUS is the patron of Naples. He was the holy bishop of Benevento who, with two companions, suffered martyrdom in the year 305. It was during the persecution of Diocletian, and the three martyrs were cast to the lions in the amphitheatre; but those ravenous beasts reverently refused to touch their helpless prey, and the tyrant was forced to order the bishop and his companions to be beheaded. The holy relics of St. Januarius have been preserved in Naples from remote ages; and their presence and exposure during times of peril, pestilence, and threatened destruction from the eruptions of Mount Vesuvius have frequently delivered that city from danger. At stated periods the blood of St. Januarius, preserved in a glass vial, becomes liquified at Naples in the presence of innumerable pilgrims.

From every eye He wipes the tear,
All sighs and sorrows cease;
No more alternate Hope and Fear
But everlasting Peace!

MOTHER ELIZABETH BAYLEY SETON.

Favorite Practice.

To beg the protection of St. Januarius and his Companions against the wild beasts of our evil passions.

ST. EUSTACE AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

ST. EUSTACE was a Roman soldier and captain of the guards under the emperor Trajan. His name before his conversion was Placidus, and he had a beautiful wife and two sons. He lived in great magnificence and practised all the natural virtues, even as a pagan, especially loyalty to his sovereign and charity to the poor. One day, whilst hunting, St. Eustace was converted to the faith by the apparition of a white stag bearing between its horns a radiant crucifix. A voice from the crucifix foretold to him that he would have many tribulations and temptations to endure in the future. And so it came to pass that, after the baptism of himself and family, St. Eustace was deprived of his rich possessions and separated for years from his wife and sons. Restored at last to his family and former dignities, St. Eustace and his wife and children refused to offer incense to the false gods at the command of the emperor Adrian, and remained steadfast in the faith. The emperor ordered them all to be shut up in a brazen bull and a fire kindled under it; and thus the noble family perished together. This was in A.D. 118.

. . . Dying martyrs cried aloud,
While the unfolding heaven above their head
Disclosed the Beatific Vision!

SIR AUBREY DE VERE.

Favorite Practice.

To beware of "the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches."

SEPTEMBER 21.

ST. MATTHEW, Apostle.

"AND when Jesus passed on from thence, He saw a man sitting in the custom-house named Matthew: and He saith to him, Follow Me. And he rose up, and followed Him." From that first call from the Divine lips of the Redeemer, St. Matthew remained faithful to his Master unto the end After the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles, he was the evangelist chosen to announce the Gospel throughout Judea and Persia. He was the first to write the history of the apostolic life of our Saviour, and he gave his book the title of Gospel, or Good Tidings, an appellation borrowed from the words of Christ Himself, who called His doctrine "the good tidings." Whilst preaching those "good tidings" in Ethiopia St. Matthew, was slain at the altar as he celebrated the divine mysteries, A.D. 44.

. . . Good tidings still we bring to all who still have ears to hear,
To all who love His coming, the elect that cannot cease.

FATHER EDMUND, C.P. (REV. B. D. HILL.)

Favorite Practice.

A prompt correspondence to the particular vocation revealed to us by God.

SEPTEMBER 22.

ST. MAURICE, Martyr.

ST. MAURICE, in the seventh Christian century, was the commander of the Theban legion, which was composed of Christian soldiers. They were ordered to join the imperial army in Gaul, and destined for active service, but were first commanded by the emperor Maximian to sacrifice to the false gods. St. Maurice, on behalf of himself and his soldiers, made a noble and most sublime protest against this act of idolatry, declaring that he and his comrades were glad and willing to submit to the imperial authority in all that was lawful, but that, in the question of sacrifice to the false gods, it was impossible to submit, and that they "would rather die innocent, than live guilty." Maximian, enraged, ordered a general massacre of the legion, and St. Maurice and his heroic followers perished in the year 628.

Yes, there is a plenty there,
Knights without reproach or fear;
Such St. Denys, such St. George,
Martin, MAURICE, Theodore,
And a hundred thousand more;
Guerdon gained and warfare o'er,
By that Sea without a surge.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

Never to permit the unlawful to supplant the fulfilment of our lawful duties.

ST. THECLA, Virgin.

ST. THECLA was converted to Christianity by the great apostle St. Paul, and became so enamored with the sublime virtue of holy chastity that she bound herself by vow to belong to God alone. Being very gifted and attractive, her parents sought to force her into the marriage-state with one who ardently admired her. As she fled from his addresses her suitor followed her from place to place. Finally, exasperated by her continued refusal to marry him, he denounced her to the authorities as a Christian, an enemy of the gods and of the empire. Thecla was cast upon a burning pile, but a miraculous shower fell from heaven and extinguished the flames, so that she was left unhurt. Then she was thrown to the lions, but the beasts gently approached her, and licked her feet. Finally her persecutors bound her to two furious bulls, but again the wild animals acknowledged the sanctity of the virgin of Christ and, although fiercely goaded, refused to drag her through the arena. St. Thecla was then released, and withdrew to Seleucia, where she peacefully ended her life.

She was all mildness, yet 'twas writ
Upon her beauty legibly,
He that's for heaven itself unfit,
Let him not hope to merit me."

COVENTRY PATMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To love chastity, and the Lord will "clothe thee with His strength."

SEPTEMBER 24.

OUR LADY OF MERCY.

IN the thirteenth century St. Peter Nolasco, tutor to the young king James of Aragon, resided with his royal pupil at Barcelona. The Moors were then possessed of a considerable part of Spain, and both there and in Africa held in cruel slavery a large number of Christians. Their faith and virtue were exposed to great danger, and their sufferings touched St. Peter's heart to the quick. He soon spent his entire estate in redeeming captives, and at last projected a religious Order to be devoted to that noble end. The design met with great opposition, but the Blessed Virgin appeared on the same night to St. Peter and King James, as well as to their director, St. Raymund of Pennafort, and in distinct visions encouraged them to prosecute the holy scheme under her patronage and protection. The new Order was, therefore, founded in 1223, under the title of "Our Lady of Mercy for the Redemption of Captives."

In our souls, O Queen of Mercy,
Every stain of sin destroy!
Soothe the griefs of those who mourn,
Morning Star of peace and joy!

Come, O come! make haste to heal us;
Sweet the peace thy power imparts,
Come and pour the oil of gladness
On our weak and wretched hearts.

From the Latin of the devout BLOSIUS.

Favorite Practice.

To invoke our Lady of Mercy in behalf of all poor prisoners.

September 25.

ST. CEOLFRID, Abbot.

ST. CEOLFRID, or Cewfrey, was the abbot of St. Paul's monastery at Jarrow, and also of that of St. Peter in Wearmouth. He was remarkable for his great learning and piety, as well as for his submission to Rome in matters of church discipline. In both his monasteries he founded libraries which, considering the period (in the eighth century) were very extensive. The holy abbot trained up many scholars whose erudition glorified the Church, conspicuous among whom was the Venerable Bede. After a long life spent in instructing his disciples how to combine in their lives (in imitation of their master) both learning and sanctity, St. Ceolfrid, feeling his end draw near, resigned his charge, and, retiring into France, died at Langres on September 25, 716, at the age of seventy-four.

Much it behoveth
Each one of mortals,
That his soul's journey
In himself ponder:
How deep it may be
When Death cometh.

From the Anglo-Saxon of KING ALFRED OF ENGLAND.

Favorite Practice.

To seek that "knowledge allied with piety" which, as St. Paul says, "compriseth everything."

SS. CYPRIAN and JUSTINA, Martyrs.

ST. JUSTINA was a virgin of Antioch (in the fourth century) and the daughter of a pagan priest. She was converted to Christianity, and drew her idolatrous parents with her to the feet of Christ. As she was extremely lovely, Justina had many admirers; but one, a noble youth of Antioch, was so infatuated with her beauty and sweetness, that he strove to win her in marriage. But Justina refused him, having consecrated herself secretly to God. Then her noble lover had recourse for help to an astrologer and magician named Cyprian. But no sooner had Cyprian beheld the maiden than he became also deeply enamored of her, and all his power was exerted to tempt and torment the innocent girl. Strong in her chastity and in the power of God, however, Justina was victorious; so that Cyprian was converted to the faith and lived, thenceforth, a life of most austere piety. In the persecution of Diocletian, Sts. Justina and Cyprian, after being first cast together into a caldron of boiling pitch (whence they miraculously escaped), were finally beheaded, A.D. 304.

Such holy love inflamed her heart
That she abhorr'd the poisoning dart
Of worldly love, and bravely trod
The narrow way that leads to God.

Fortem virili pectore.

Favorite Practice.

To console yourself with the thought that no temptation can defile the soul that does not consent to it.

SEPTEMBER 27.

SS. COSMAS and DAMIAN, Martyrs.

THESE holy brothers were physicians dwelling, in the third century, at Eges in Cilicia, and working wondrous cures on the bodies and souls of their numerous patients. They never took any fees for their medical services, so that their disinterestedness and zeal drew upon them the notice of the civil authorities, and led to their arrest when the persecution of Diocletian broke out. By order of the governor of Cilicia, Sts. Cosmas and Damian were subjected to a variety of tortures, but, being miraculously rescued from both fire and flood, they were at length beheaded in 285. The Greeks styled them *Anargyres*, or *without fees;* and they are counted the patrons of medicine, and of the medical profession.

Learning their holy lessons,
May I keep them in my heart,
And go forth bravely strengthened
To fulfil my allotted part.

ELIZABETH CARMEL HENDRY.

Favorite Practice.

To contribute to the support of hospitals for the sick poor.

ST. WENCESLAUS, Martyr.

ST. WENCESLAUS, Duke of Bohemia, was the grandson of the noble St. Ludmilia, who, having been converted to the faith in the tenth century by St. Adelbert, preceded St. Wenceslaus in winning the crown of martyrdom. Ludmilla had carefully trained the young prince in Christianity; while, on the other hand, his pagan mother, Drahomira, had brought up his brother, Boleslaus, in heathenism Wenceslaus, as a consequence, was mild, merciful, and just; Boleslaus, fierce, false, and cruel. And each had his partisans among the people, so that Bohemia was divided between Christianity and paganism. Drahomira and her favorite son hired mercenaries who martyred Ludmilla whilst praying at the foot of her crucifix; and some years later, the unnatural mother having artfully entrapped St. Wenceslaus into paying her a visit, the holy prince was slain by his pagan brother before the altar where he was fervently worshipping his God, A.D. 938.

O mystery divine! could we
But love like Wenceslaus,
Like Wenceslaus, in our poor turn,
These frozen hearts of ours might burn
And melt in Thy dear cause.

From "Legend of the Best-Beloved."

Favorite Practice.

To beseech God daily to grant you a tender and practical devotion to the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

ST. MICHAEL, the Archangel.

ST. MICHAEL, whose name signifies "Who is like unto God," and whom the prophet Daniel designates as "the Great Prince that standeth for the children of Thy people," is the first of the Seven Spirits who assist before the Throne in the presence of the Most High. It was he who defended the honor of the Incarnate Word against Lucifer and his rebel angels, and cast the celestial insurgents out of heaven into the internal abyss, as is recorded in the sublime Revelations of St. John (Apoc. xii. 7–10) Besides being captain of the heavenly host, and patron and prince of the Church Militant, St. Michael, according to the testimony of Sts. Augustine and Bonaventure, is the guardian of all dying Christians; and is specially invoked in prayers at the hour of death. The virtue particularly ascribed to him is a profound humility whereby he overcame the inordinate pride of Satan.

Thou, chiefly, Archangel, whose strength was victorious
Against the proud spirit that dared the Most High,
From thy dwelling in heaven, all blissful and glorious,
Cast down on each votary a fond, guarding eye.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To repeat the ejaculation, "Blessed St. Michael, defend us in the day of battle, that we may not be lost at the dreadful Judgment."

SEPTEMBER 30.

ST. JEROME, Priest and Doctor.

JEROME, the son of the rich Eusebius of Dalmatia, was born at Stridonium about the year 342. He finished his studies at Rome; became a successful lawyer there. Baptized when more than thirty years of age, he then vowed himself to perpetual celibacy. In 373, he travelled into the East; and, attracted to an eremitical life, he retired to a desert on the confines of Arabia, and there spent four years in study and seclusion. After ten years of temptation, trial, and penance, he returned to Rome, master of his passions, and of the difficult studies to which he had applied himself. His preaching at Rome was followed by most remarkable results. Numbers of noble ladies, among whom were St. Paula and Marcella, renounced the world, and devoted themselves to a religious life. At the end of three years St. Jerome journeyed to a monastery which he had founded at Bethlehem, where he died in 420, leaving, besides his famous translation of the Scriptures, numerous controversial writings, epistles, and commentaries.

Alone amid the desert; and the soul,
Like a lone eagle struggling up in space,
Feels the stern dread, and awful vastness roll
Swooped o'er its pinions.

HON. IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To cultivate with St. Jerome a salutary fear of the Last Judgment.

October.

—*Floats thro' russet fields, once green,*
Brown OCTOBER'S *plaintive plea,*
"Lady of the Rosary!
Hear our Aves, *Maid serene!"*

E. C. D.

OCTOBER 1.

ST. REMIGIUS, Bishop.

ST. REMIGIUS was bishop of Rheims, and was the intimate friend of King Clovis of France, even before that monarch became a Christian. The good bishop, in fact, had a great share in bringing about the king's conversion, and after his baptism Remigius strove to lead his royal disciple to the perfection of the duties of his state. "Become," said he to the king, "become the mainstay of your people; hasten to the aid of the oppressed, of widows and orphans; cause yourself to be feared and loved." His wise and fearless counsels were of incalculable value to Clovis, who endeavored to put into practice the prudent advice he received. The episcopate of St. Remigius extended over seventy years, during which he became in his eminent virtues a model of imitation to all his flock. He died in 533.

. . . A man so learned,
So full of equity, so noble, so notable;
In the process of his life so innocent;
In the manage of his office so incorrupt;
In the passages of state so wise.

SHAKSPEARE.

Favorite Practice.

To make special prayer for the salvation of our rulers.

OCTOBER 2.

THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS.

OUR Divine Lord says in the Gospel, "Beware lest you scandalize any of these little ones, for their angels in heaven see the face of My Father." The existence of guardian angels is hence a dogma of the Christian faith, and the soul may draw unspeakable comfort from the belief that the Infinite Goodness, not content with all that It has done for us and our salvation, has deputed to each one of us an angel for his guide. God has indeed "given His angels charge over us, that they keep us in all our ways." They "bear us up in their hands," and lose not sight of us day or night. Let us be grateful, then, to these blessed guardians, and, as St. Bernard recommends, let us demonstrate respect for their presence, affection for their services, and confidence in their protection.

Celestial guardian, thus with thee,
And by thy constant care,
May I the world's corruption flee,
And heav'nly blessings share.

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

To repeat twice daily, "O angel of God! to whose holy care I am committed by the divine clemency, enlighten, govern, and defend me this day (or night.)"

OCTOBER 3.

ST. DENYS Martyr.

WHEN St. Paul the Apostle was preaching in Athens, he was brought before the Areopagus to give an account of his doctrine. The great saint gladly embraced this opportunity of setting forth, with admirable eloquence and power, the eternal truths of the Gospel. Among his listeners was Denys or Dionysius, the Areopagite. Sojourning at Heliopolis on the day of our Lord's crucifixion, this remarkable man is said to have witnessed the mysterious and awful darkness which covered the earth for three hours, and on inquiring the cause, later, had been moved to meditate continually thereon. Converted by the sermon of St. Paul, Denys was baptized and ordained priest by that apostle, and became the first bishop of Athens. It is a pious belief that he was present at the death and burial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in the writings attributed to him is found a description of her beauty and loveliness, when he saw her, in a visit he made to Jerusalem. St. Denys sealed his faith by martyrdom, being burned alive at Athens.

My life, O God, I give to Thee;
My life—'tis all I have to give,
And, losing it, begin to live
The life of immortality.

LADY WILDE.

Favorite Practice.

In the beauty of our daily lives to image forth the beauty of our blessed Mother.

October 4.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Confessor.

THE father of this saint was Pietro Bernardone of Assisi, a rich merchant, whose business with France was very extensive. Regarding his eldest son, Giovanni as his successor in trade, Pietro had the boy taught French. At that period this was a rare accomplishment, and the little Giovanni was accordingly called by his companions *Francesco*, or *the Frenchman;* a name by which he continued to be designated during the rest of his life. His early years were passed in pursuit of pleasure; and it was not until he was in his twenty-fifth year that he actually renounced the world. After spending some years in prayer and penance, he founded in 1200 his Order of Friars Minor, known subsequently as the Capuchins. The piety of St. Francis was truly seraphic, and was rewarded by God with the signal favor of bearing in his body the sacred stigmata of Jesus Christ. St. Francis died in 1226, at the age of forty-five.

O saint whom thus we venerate
In shadowy aisles, from heav'n look down
On Umbria's hills, and impetrate
Sweet peace to bless thy native town.

From the Latin of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. *by* Prof. A. J. Stace.

Favorite Practice.

A special devotion to the holy poverty and Wounds of our Lord.

OCTOBER 5.

ST. PLACIDUS AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

ST. PLACIDUS when but seven years old was entrusted to St. Benedict's care to be trained in virtue and learning. He was already making great progress in the ways of holiness, when one day, while drawing water from the Lake of Subiaco, the boy fell into the water and was nearly drowned. St. Benedict, seeing the accident in spirit, sent one of his monks to the rescue, and Placidus was saved. Thenceforth he continued to advance in holiness; and eventually founded a monastery in the environs of Messina. A large number of religious gathered around him, and their retreat became the edification of all Sicily. When they had faithfully accomplished their work, in the year 546, St. Placidus and several of his companions received the crown of martyrdom at the hands of a band of pirates.

. . . But who to these can turn
And weigh them 'gainst a weeping world like this,
Nor feel his spirit burn
To grasp so sweet a bliss,
And mourn that exile hard which here his portion is?

From the Spanish of FR. LUIS PONCE DE LEON, O.S.A.

Favorite Practice.

To draw profit from all the accidents of life.

OCTOBER 6.

ST. BRUNO, Confessor.

IN the eleventh century ignorance had generated laxity and immorality in France. Faith was rife enough in profession, but morality was not in acceptance. And so it came to pass that Bruno, canon and chancellor of the cathedral of Rheims, disgusted with the prevailing scandals he witnessed, formed with several of his friends a project for renouncing the world altogether. When he consulted about this purpose with Hugh, bishop of Grenoble, the latter pointed out to him as a suitable site for their pious retreat the rugged solitude of the Chartreuse, not far distant. They there constructed for themselves separate cells, and began to lead a life of austere poverty and labor. Numerous companions soon flocked around them, and even the great ones of the world were edified by the sight of their ascetic virtues. Thus was founded in 1084 one of the most edifying and rigorous Orders that has ever existed. St. Bruno died in 1101.

Standing on what too long we bore
With shoulders bent, and downcast eyes,
We may discern, unseen before,
A path to higher destinies.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To ponder sometimes that sentence of our divine Lord's, "Woe unto him through whom scandal cometh."

October 7.

ST. MARK, Pope and Confessor.

ST. MARK only occupied the Chair of St. Peter for the space of eight months and twenty days, but even in that short time he zealously managed to apply large sums of money to the construction of two churches. To adorn the house of God and to contribute to the splendor of His worship, were prompted in St. Mark by the same intention which led St. Magdalen to pour the spikenard on the feet of our Lord. All ancient writers laud his generosity, and the solicitude he manifested to maintain fervor amongst the faithful while the Church was at peace. Having been elected to succeed Pope St. Sylvester in 336, he died in the month of October of the same year.

Celestial King! Oh, let Thy presence pass
Before my spirit, and an image fair
Shall meet that look of mercy from on high,
As the reflected image in a glass
Doth meet the look of him who seeks it there,
And owes its being to the gazer's eye.

From the Spanish of F. DE ALDANA.

Favorite Practice.

To aid as generously as your means will allow, in the erection of Catholic churches

OCTOBER 8.

ST. BRIDGIT, Widow.

ST. BRIDGIT was a princess of the royal house of Sweden. When very young she heard a sermon upon the sacred Passion of our Redeemer. The effects of this discourse, together with a vision of Jesus Christ covered with blood and wounds, with which she was also favored, exerted a salutary influence upon her whole after-life. Her noble heart was inflamed with the ardent desire to make amends to our Lord by her own loving fidelity for the universal ingratitude of mankind; and having been married at the age of sixteen, and left a widow with children in the course of a few years, St. Bridgit devoted herself thenceforth unreservedly to the perfect service of God. She made devout pilgrimages to Rome and the tombs of the apostles, and even to the Holy Land, in company with her daughter, St. Catherine; and having founded and endowed various monasteries, and enjoyed many remarkable celestial revelations, St. Bridgit died in the Eternal City in 1373, being then more than threescore years and ten.

I thank Thee, Lord, that here our souls,
Though amply blest,
Can never find, although they seek,
A perfect rest—
Nor ever shall, until they lean
On Jesus' breast!

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Favorite Practice.

To impress upon young hearts a lively devotion t[illegible] Passion of our Lord.

October 9.

ST. DENYS, Bishop and Martyr.

TOWARDS the middle of the third century, Pope St. Fabian sent the renowned Denys (as well as the holy missionaries Rusticus and Eleutherius) into Gaul, to carry thither the glorious light of the Gospel. They accordingly founded the churches of Chartres, Senlis, Meaux, Cologne, and, above all, that of Paris, whereof St. Denys became the first bishop. In the midst of his apostolic labors, however, St. Denys and his companions were seized by the prefect Sisinnius Fescenninus, imprisoned, and, about the year 280, put to death by decapitation. The bodies of the martyrs were then thrown into the Seine; but their faithful followers sought occasion to draw them thence, and the sacred remains were interred on the spot where the Basilica of St. Denys was afterwards erected. The blood of the martyrs is truly the seed of the Church; and the martyrdom of St. Denys and his brethren was speedily followed by the establishment of Christianity upon the ruins of Gallic paganism.

To suffer much
Has been the fate of saints;
Our fate is such
Away, away all plaints!

FATHER ADRIAN ROUQUETTE.

Favorite Practice.

To animate your courage in suffering by the hope of the reward to come.

October 10.

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA, Confessor.

FRANCIS BORGIA, Duke of Gandia and grandee of Spain, was one of the leading noblemen at the court of the Spanish emperor Charles V. When the beautiful young empress Isabella was snatched suddenly away by death, Borgia was deputed by his liege to accompany the corpse of the empress to Granada, and there, according to a formal ceremony, to verify the body as that of his imperial mistress. When the coffin was opened for that purpose, the ravages of decomposition in the once lovely face and form of Isabella were so shocking and repulsive to behold that Francis Borgia realized on the spot the emptiness of all human advantages and dignities. He made a secret vow, from that out, to occupy himself with eternal things and the great affair of salvation. His wife, the Duchess Eleanor, dying soon after, St. Francis entered the Society of Jesus; and having preached the Gospel in Castile, Andalusia, and Portugal, was chosen General of his Order, and died in 1572.

Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

J. Shirley.

Favorite Practice.

Whenever you look upon a corpse, say to yourself, "What thou art now, I, one day, must be!"

OCTOBER 11.

ST. TARACUS AND HIS COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

THE holy confessors Taracus, Probus, and Andronicus were denounced as Christians to Numerian, governor of Cilicia, and were arrested at Pompeiopolis in the year 304. They were examined and most cruelly tortured successively at Tharsis, Mopsuesta, and Anazarbis, and finally, being unshaken in their constancy, were exposed in the amphitheatre by the orders of Numerian. But the most ferocious beasts being let loose against the courageous trio refused to do them any harm, and came crouching to their feet, to lick the wounds which the previous torture had inflicted on the martyrs. The judge at length commanded the heroic men to be despatched by the gladiators.

Where words are weak and foes encountering strong,
Where mightier do assault than do defend,
The feebler part puts up enforcèd wrong
And silent sees what speech could not amend;
Yet higher powers must think, though they repine,
When sun is set the little stars will shine.

REV. ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To repeat often during the day, "O my good God, I would sooner die than offend Thee mortally!"

OCTOBER 12.

ST. WILFRID, Bishop and Confessor.

BORN in England in the seventh century, and destined for an exalted station, the noble Wilfrid left all for Christ, and fled from the court of the kings of Northumberland to consecrate himself entirely to the service of God. Having received holy orders whilst abroad, he returned to England and was created archbishop of York. The heresy of Pelagius was then prevailing in his archdiocese; and the great mass of the nobility were leading lives of lamentable disorder. The purity of St. Wilfrid's faith and morals being a manifest reproach to these wretched men, his efforts to establish discipline won for him many enemies. The holy archbishop was repeatedly banished from his see, imprisoned, and stripped of all that he possessed. But his exile, on each occasion, afforded St. Wilfrid a fresh opportunity for preaching the Gospel to new and willing hearers. After working, in this way, many conversions in Friesland and Mercia, the saint peacefully expired in the year 709.

. . . The night is gone,
And with the morn those angels faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To make such judicious use of the wrongs inflicted on you that they may serve to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

OCTOBER 13.

ST. EDWARD, King and Confessor.

ST. EDWARD, king of England, was the son of King Ethelred by his second wife, Emma. He was a prince of unusual wisdom and grandeur of soul. He established a wisely planned code which still forms the groundwork of public law in England; and his administration was characterized by such courage, justice, and sweet benevolence, that, whilst his enemies feared him, his subjects loved him as a father. "Providence," says the Abbé Lecanu, "seemed to have singled him out to repair the disasters resulting from forty years of invasion, and to restore his country." He founded the famous abbey of Westminster; and being upon his death-bed in the year 1066, his last words to his grieving queen, Editha, were, "Weep not; I am not about to die, but am beginning to live eternally."

Here Edward king,
Of Angles lord,
Sent his steadfast
Soul to Christ,
In the kingdom of God
A holy spirit.

From the Anglo-Saxon of CÆDMON.

Favorite Practice.

To seek the gift of wisdom where it can alone be found—in prayer, and union with God.

ST. CALLISTUS, Pope and Martyr.

ST. CALLISTUS was a Roman, and was elevated to the Chair of St. Peter (succeeding Pope Zephyrinus) on August 2, 217. He was the first to institute the Ember-days, and also to give heed to the erection of durable buildings for the uses of Christian worship. His wisdom and strict attention to order and discipline in the Church were of so striking a character that the reigning emperor, Alexander Severus, although a pagan, was accustomed to hold forth the pontiff as an example to his nobles whenever a choice of civil magistrates had to be made, quoting to them the words of Callistus, that public offices should be conferred only on the most worthy. But neither the wisdom nor the virtues of St. Callistus could preserve him from the wrath of pagan persecutors, and he suffered martyrdom in the year 222.

Like a tide our work should rise,
Each later wave the best;
To-morrow forever flies,
To-day is the special test.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

Favorite Practice.

A faithful observance of the Ember days.

October 15.

ST. TERESA, Virgin.

TERESA D'AVILA was born at Avila in Castile on the 28th of March 1515, and was one of the twelve children of the noble Don Alfonso Sanchez de Cepeda and his wife Beatrix. Reading the lives of the martyrs, Teresa and her little brother in their tenderest years stole away from home, hoping to be martyred by the Moors. Bad example and the love of dress and pleasure, afterwards diminished the young girl's fervor; but her father having placed her at a convent-school, her early piety once more revived. At the age of twenty she entered as a novice the Carmelite convent at Avila, and after twenty years, she instituted the reform of the Carmelite Order, and established many monasteries of that strict observance. Her numerous compositions or compilations were so full of heavenly wisdom that St. Teresa ranks as a Doctor in the Church of God. She breathed her last in 1582 at her convent of San José, repeating, "A broken and contrite heart, O Lord, Thou wilt not despise!"

Were there no heaven, I would love Thee still.
For Thy dread Passion, Lord, I love Thee best;
And though in firmest hope I wait Thy will,
Compared with love, my strongest hope is dead;
For, without hope, in love I'd trusting rest.

MAURICE F. EGAN.

Favorite Practice.

To repeat often with St. Teresa, "To suffer, O Lord, or to die!"

October 16.

ST. GAL, Abbot.

ST. GAL was born in Ireland somewhere about the year 545, and became, in time, the disciple of St. Columban. When the latter journeyed into France to seek a life of greater obscurity and seclusion, the disciple accompanied his beloved master. Being banished from Luxeuil by the devices of Queen Brunehaut, Columban and Gal sought refuge in Burgundy. King Sigebert was so charmed with the piety of Gal that he nominated him to fill the bishopric of Constance. But Gal contrived to evade the dignity, and contented himself with a little spot of ground whereon he built a few hermitages, and thus originated the famous monastery of Saint-Gal. The holy abbot wrought many miracles, and died in 640, at the venerable age of ninety-five.

To play through life a perfect part,
Unnoticed and unknown,
To seek no rest in any heart,
Save only God's alone;
In little things to own no will,
To have no share in great,
To find the labor ready still,
And for the crown to wait.

ELLEN DOWNING.

Favorite Practice.

Ever choose rather to have less than more.

October 17.

ST. HEDWIGE, Widow.

A NOBLE and gifted matron was Hedwige, Duchess of Poland. She exercised a most meek and loving sway over her husband and sons, and tenderly ruled her subjects; at the same time practising in secret many works of penance and humility. Hedwige was regarded as a model even by the nuns of Breslau, whose convent she had established. Her prudence and sweetness overcame the enemies of her husband, and obtained for the duke what the most skilful diplomats had failed to secure. The characteristic devotion of her great soul was submission to the holy will of God in every trial and contradiction. The pious duchess foretold the moment of her death. She made a fervent preparation for it, received the last rites, and died happily in October, 1243

Meek, modest, temperate, and calm,
To virtue ever dear,
O'er all her noble manners reigns a charm
Which universal reverence inspires.

DANTE.

Favorite Practice.

In every trial exclaim, "O my God, Thou hast desired it; may Thy blessed will be done!"

St. Albert's College Librar

OCTOBER 18.

ST. LUKE, Evangelist.

ST. LUKE, the beloved disciple of St. Paul, is supposed, like St. Mark, to have been converted after the Ascension of our Lord. He was a native of Antioch, the capital of Syria, and was a physician by profession (Col. iv. 14); but he became the companion of St. Paul in his travels, and his co-worker in the ministry of the Gospel. After the martyrdom of his master at Rome, St. Luke preached the Gospel in Greece and Egypt; and having endured many afflictions for the name of Christ, filled with the Holy Ghost, departed this life in Bithynia in the year of our Lord 74. Some ancient writers assert that St. Luke was a skilful artist; and tradition accredits him with a portrait of the Blessed Virgin Mary, painted from life. It is certain that he wrote a Gospel in Greek more than twenty years after our Lord's Ascension, and that he wrote also the *Acts of the Apostles*.

. . . Heaven holdeth out the key;
Love turns it, and unlocks to virtuous minds
The sanctuary of the beautiful.
. . . . . .
For from this Beauty there doth grace proceed
So strange, so sweet, and of such influence,
That he who dies through her, through her doth live.

From the Italian of MICHAEL ANGELO.

Favorite Practice.

To recommend in a special manner to the patronage of St. Luke the labors of Catholic physicians and artists.

ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA, Confessor.

THE life of the Spanish Franciscan, St. Peter of Alcantara, was a marvellous example of ecstatic prayer and unheard-of austerities, resulting in the closest union with God. But neither the ecstasies of prayer nor the rigors of penance could deter him from his great mission of preaching the Divine Word; and his ardent zeal was crowned by the conversion of thousands of sinners. In his love of God and his desire to glorify Him, he also employed his gifted pen for the instruction of the faithful; and two of his treatises, one on "Mental Prayer" and the other on "Peace of the Soul," are specially noted for their wisdom and spiritual unction. St. Peter of Alcantara was one of the confessors of St. Teresa; and, like her, he instituted a reform in his own Order, known as that of "the strict observance." He died on October 19, at the monastery of Arenas.

O wait! to Thee my weary soul is crying:
Wait for me! Yet why ask it when I see,
With feet nailed to the cross, Thou'rt waiting still for me!

From the Spanish of FRA LOPE DE VEGA, O.S.F.

Favorite Practice.

"*Be not ashamed to serve others, and to appear poor in the world for the love of Jesus Christ.*"

OCTOBER 20.

ST. ARTHEMIS, Martyr.

DURING the reign of Constantius, in the fourth century, Arthemis was a general in the imperial army in Egypt. Through human respect, he accepted from his prince certain offices which caused him, though a Christian, to be suspected of being an Arian and an opponent to St Athanasius. But in spite of his temporary concessions, his faith was pure; and he was finally arrested for having destroyed the pagan idols and their temples in Egypt. Brought before Julian the Apostate, Arthemis was inspired by God with an heroic courage, and openly repaired whatever disedification his past weakness might have given by boldly rebuking the emperor for the deceitful measures he had taken to convert his soldiers into idolaters without their knowledge. Julian, in indignation, ordered the Christian general to be beheaded. He was therefore martyred at Antioch in the year 362.

Love works the same as Death: it kills what kill it may;
But through the bursting heart the Spirit wings its way.

From the German of REV. FR. SCHEFFLER.

Favorite Practice.

Exert yourself continually in the present, to repair the scandals or disedifications of the past

October 21.

ST. URSULA AND COMPANIONS, Virgins and Martyrs.

TRADITION avers that St. Ursula was the daughter of the Christian king of Brittany, Theonotus (by his wife Daria a Sicilian princess), reigning in the fifth century. Her mother died when Ursula was about fifteen years old, but she being wise as well as fair, supplied the queen's place in the kingdom. Being betrothed later to Conon, son of the king of England, it is said that she was the means of converting him, inducing him, like herself, to consecrate his life to God. A large number of holy virgins placed themselves under the direction of Ursula, and many Christian parents entrusted to her and her companions the education of their children. England being then harassed by the Saxons, these devoted women and their charges withdrew to Gaul. But, on the banks of the Rhine, near Cologne, they were attacked by a horde of ravaging Huns, and preferred to die as martyrs of chastity sooner than incur sin and shame. This was in the year 453. St. Ursula is the patroness of Christian schools and scholars. Her relics are preserved at Cologne, and many miracles have been wrought at her tomb.

. . . A row of lilies meek that hold their breath,
As pale, and mute, and motionless as death.

CHARLES WARREN STODDARD.

Favorite Practice.

"*Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.*"

ST. PHILIP OF HERACLEA, Bishop and Martyr.

PHILIP, bishop of Heraclea, was one of the many saints who suffered martyrdom for the faith of Christ under the emperor Diocletian. A priest, Severus, and a deacon, Hermes, shared the blessed lot of their bishop. The holy trio refused to yield to the pagans the sacred books, as well as to burn incense before the false gods. They were therefore scourged with rods until their intestines were laid bare, and imprisoned in a horrible dungeon, where they languished in fetters and torments for seven months. By the providence of God, the prison of these chosen confessors communicated in some secret way with the public theatre of the city, and the Christians having recourse privately to Philip and his brethren, the latter continued to preach the Gospel even to the close of their painful imprisonment. They were burned at the stake, after seven months of repeated tortures; and Hermes had to be carried to the pyre, having completely lost the use of his limbs in that frightful dungeon.

Bright beaming through their mist of tears, the smile
Of holy Faith is seen, a peace-lit rainbow-sign.

REV. WILLIAM TREACY, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

Strive to draw profit for the souls of others from the daily contradictions you may meet with.

October 23.

ST. THEODORET, Martyr.

THE uncle of the famous Julian the Apostate was a certain Count Julian, who also renounced the faith of Christ in order to please his nephew. The reward of this iniquitous apostasy was the installation of Count Julian as governor of the East. At that period, the holy priest Theodoret was the trusty guardian of all the sacred vessels of the Christians. Count Julian demanded the surrender of those precious treasures; and when Theodoret firmly refused to betray his solemn trust, the governor subjected the noble priest to the most atrocious tortures. Theodoret, in the midst of his agony, continually exhorted the apostate to return to the faith; but Julian remaining deaf to his counsels, the brave confessor, inspired by God, prophesied his own death on the rack, and predicted the defeat of Julian the Apostate by the Persians, and his despairing death, as well as that of Count Julian, who really expired forty days after, like Antiochus, consumed by worms.

Man is unjust, but God is just; and finally justice Triumphs.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To resolve sooner to die than betray a sacred trust.

OCTOBER 24.

ST. RAPHAEL, Archangel.

"I AM Raphael, one of the Seven Holy Angels which present the prayers of the Saints, and which go in and out before the glory of the Holy One." (Tobias xii. 15.) St. Raphael, whose name signifies the Medicine of God, is one of the Seven Archangels. He was deputed by Heaven to be the guide and guardian spirit of the young Tobias when his father sent him from Ninive to Rages to recover a loan from their kinsman, Gabelus. St. Raphael arranged and effected a happy marriage for the young man, and, on their return to the elder Tobias, instructed the son how to apply the gall of a fish the youth had caught on his journey, to the blind eyes of his father, thus, to the great joy of all, restoring sight to the good old patriarch. St. Raphael is accounted the patron of the sick, of travellers, and of all contemplating wedlock.

. . . And RAPHAEL, of the glorious Seven who stand
Before the throne of Him who lives and reigns;
Angel of health! the Lord hath filled thy hand
With balm from heaven to soothe or cure our pains,
Heal or console the victim of disease,
And guide our steps when doubtful of our ways!

ANON.

Favorite Practice.

Place all your journeys under the patronage of St Raphael.

October 25.

SS. CRISPIN and CRISPINIAN, Martyrs.

THE names of Sts. Crispin and Crispinian are met with in the most ancient martyrologies. These holy brothers were of an illustrious Roman family, who quitted all for Christ and accompanied St. Quentin (some say St. Denis) to Gaul, in order to preach the Gospel there. They took up their abode at Soissons (of which city they are counted the patron saints); and to avoid being a burden to the faithful, as also to be able to give alms to the poor, they employed the time not consecrated to their evangelical labors or personal devotions, in making or repairing shoes. In the year 287, they were denounced as Christians, and summoned in turn before the tribunals of Maximian, Hercules, and Rictius Varus. Threats and tortures were employed in vain against the holy and heroic brothers, and they finally suffered martyrdom by decapitation.

Contempt and sorrow, ceaseless toil and pain,—
To suffer all, to (fearless) suffer still,—
Of what, forsooth, should loving hearts complain,
Since love of God doth sweeten every ill?

From the French of Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Favorite Practice.

To dignify even despised tasks by a noble and exalted intention.

October 26.

ST. EVARISTUS, Pope and Martyr.

ST. EVARISTUS succeeded that other canonized Pontiff, St. Anaclete, during the reign of the emperor Trajan, in the year 103. Historians attribute to him the formation of the first parishes in the city of Rome, and the first appointment of cardinal-priests or clergy invested (subject to his authority) with the charge of those parishes. St. Ignatius of Antioch declares that, under the pontificate of Evaristus, the faithful at Rome were models for all other true believers throughout Christendom, because of their holiness, their fraternal charity, and the purity and steadfastness of their faith. St. Evaristus was martyred in 112. His remains were interred at the Vatican, near St. Peter's tomb.

They have passed unto their guerdon, and oh! children loved so fondly!
Let no cloud obscure the brightness of their memory through the years;
Cherish it with fond affection, teach your children to revere it,
Keep it green with the bedewing of your love's sincerest tears.

MARCELLA A. FITZGERALD.

Favorite Practice.

To become, as St. Peter says, the living example of such as are intrusted to your authority.

October 27.

ST. FRUMENTIUS, Bishop.

IN the fourth century, two young children, Frumentius and Edesius, natives of Tyre, were brought to Abyssinia by a relative who had business there. Whilst the little boys were reposing together, one day, studying some ancient scroll in the shade of a leafy tree, they were kidnapped by a party of natives. They were not ill-used, however, by their captors, but, on the contrary, treated with distinction as superior beings; and, after having loaded them with honors, the Abyssinian king, at the hour of his death, restored the brothers to freedom. Frumentius returned at last to Tyre. He conferred with the great St. Athanasius; and (like St. Patrick of Ireland, who was his cotemporary) Frumentius was made bishop, and set forth once more to give "the land a saint which lost him as a slave." He was the instrument of God in Christianizing the entire kingdom of Abyssinia; and his converts were so stanch and devoted that they defied the emperor Constantius in his efforts to pervert them to Arianism. Bishop Frumentius died about the close of the fourth century.

Naught shall prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we behold
Is full of blessings.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Favorite Practice.

To worship the finger of God in every contradiction. "It is I: fear not."

October 28.

SS. SIMON and JUDE, Apostles.

ST. SIMON was surnamed Zelotes because of his great zeal for the will and glory of his divine Master. He is said to have been a native of Cana of Galilee; and he is mentioned in the Gospel as having been elected by Christ to be one of the College of Apostles; and with them he awaited in the Cenacle the miraculous gifts of Pentecost. St. Simon carried the light of the Gospel into Egypt and other parts of Africa; and, finally going with St. Jude (as some grave writers attest) into Persia, preached there with his companion, and was with him martyred by the Persians in the year 68. Others assert that St. Jude was crucified and shot to death with arrows at Ararat in Armenia. He was brother to St. James the Less. He evangelized Mesopotamia and Armenia; and was the writer of the Epistle known as "The Catholic Epistle of St. Jude," directed especially against the heresies of the Gnostics, Simonians, and Nicholaites.

Hark! Apostles swell the chorus,
Join to praise Thy sacred name;
Thee, the white-robed band of Martyrs,
Thee, the Prophets dread proclaim.

Te Deum.

Favorite Practice.

Be zealous for the better gifts.

October 29.

ST. NARCISSUS, Bishop.

ST. NARCISSUS was bishop of Jerusalem in 195, being eighty years of age when appointed to that see. His venerable sanctity excited the envy of the infernal spirits, and three of their emissaries (wicked men) accused the holy bishop of an atrocious crime, in order that they themselves might escape the charge. Each wretched man sealed his slander with a terrible imprecation. "May I be burnt alive!" said one; "May I be struck with leprosy!" said another; "May my eyes never more behold the light of day!" cried the third. Sooner than justify himself and expose these guilty men, the noble old bishop withdrew to a retired spot and committed his cause silently to God. But behold! one of the foul perjurers was stricken blind; one became a leper; and one, by the just judgment of God, was burned alive. His innocence thus attested by Heaven, Narcissus returned to his diocese and was welcomed with open arms. He lived to the great age of 116 years.

Let but thy heart, O man, become a valley low,
And God will rain on it till it will overflow.

From the German of ANGELUS SILESIUS.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect that our Lord has declared those men blessed against whom all manner of evil is spoken falsely for His sake.

OCTOBER 30.

ST. MARCELLUS, Martyr.

THE national festivities on the occasion of the coronation of the emperor Maximian Hercules were ordered to be accompanied with idolatrous sacrifices. The centurion in the Trajan legion at that date was the Christian hero Marcellus. At the command to sacrifice to the false gods, he threw down his arms and declared that he would give up the service sooner than obey the infamous order. There was at that time no public persecution of the Christians, but Marcellus was tried before Agricolanus, and sentenced by him to be beheaded under the specious plea that he had been guilty of contempt to the emperor. The secretary of Agricolanus, one Gassian, struck with the injustice of the sentence (although a pagan), threw down his pen and refused to record the sentence of Marcellus. He was also cast into prison, only to reappear before Agricolanus and openly avow himself a Christian. St. Marcellus was martyred on October 30th, and St. Gassian on the 3d of the following December.

O blessed Faith, content and sure,
Thy steadfastness no time can change!
O perfect Love, serene and pure,
Thou knowest nor death nor change!

MRS. M. E. MANNIX.

Favorite Practice.

Be firm as a rock in matters of duty, inciting others to imitate your example.

OCTOBER 31.

ST. QUENTIN, Martyr.

ST. QUENTIN, the apostle of Picardy, is famous for the innumerable and ingenious tortures whereby he won his heavenly crown. The prefect Rictius Varus condemned him first to be fettered, scourged, and imprisoned. A week later he was scourged afresh, and broken upon a rack. Then they beat him with chains of iron, and aggravated his terrible wounds with burning oil and pitch. In the midst of his agony, the heroic Quentin never ceased praising our Lord Jesus Christ; and the prefect, unable to silence him, commanded the executioners to fill the holy confessor's mouth with quicklime and vinegar. Remanded to his dungeon, he was carried shortly after to Amiens, and tortured with iron rods driven through his thighs, and spikes barbarously forced under the nails of his hands and feet. None of these savage cruelties could shake the martyr's faith and constancy, however, and the prefect, in the year 287, ordered his head to be struck off.

Great was the struggle, fierce the strife, but wonderful the gain,
For not one trial or one pang was sent or felt in vain,
And every link of that long chain that led my soul to Thee
Remains a monument of all Thy mercy wrought in me!

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

In every suffering to exclaim, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord Jesus Christ!"

November.

Pale NOVEMBER, *at the door,*
Kneels in mystic contemplation:
"'Tis our Lady's Presentation,
Zealous souls, her help implore!"

E. C. D.

November 1.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS.

"AND I heard the number of them that were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, of all the tribes of the children of Israel. . . . . After this I saw a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne, and in sight of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the ancients, and about the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne upon their faces, and adored God, saying, Amen. Benediction, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, honor, and power, and strength to our God, for ever and ever. Amen." —Apoc. vii. 4–12.

. . . I saw, too, coming down that brilliant stair,
Such multitude of splendors, that methought
Heaven's every light had been concentred there.

Dante.

Favorite Practice.

A spiritual reading daily from the Lives of the Saints.

November 2.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS.

LL SOULS' is a day appointed by the Church of God whereon the living are specially exhorted to offer prayers and suffrages for the souls of the faithful departed. "Judas, the valiant commander, having made a gathering, sent 1200 drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice, to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection. . . . . It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."—2 Mac. xii. 43, 46. "Make an agreement with thy adversary quickly, whilst thou art in the way with him; lest perhaps the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. *Amen I say to thee, Thou shalt not go out from thence till thou pay the last farthing.*"—St. Matt. v. 25, 26.

So pray that, rescued from the storm
Of Heaven's eternal ire,
We may lie down, then rise again,
Safe, and yet saved by fire.

Cardinal Newman.

Favorite Practice.

Recite the "De Profundis" every day for the suffering souls in Purgatory.

November 3.

ST. HUBERT, Bishop.

HUBERT of Aquitaine was a nobleman of the court of Pepin d'Heristal in the seventh century. He was given up, as was the custom of his fellow-courtiers, to the pursuit of worldly pleasures, and was specially devoted to the chase. One day in Holy Week, when hunting in the forest of Ardennes, he pursued a milk-white stag which, turning at last upon the astounded Hubert, revealed a crucifix shining between its antlers. Penetrated with awe at this miracle of the divine mercy, the hunter fell upon his knees, and then and there dedicated himself entirely to the service of God. He became a hermit in the forest of Ardennes, and, after years of penance, was elected successively to the bishoprics of Maestricht and Liége. He was a preacher of great power and unction, and by his zeal freed his large diocese from all remains of idolatry. God accorded him the gift of miracles before his death, which took place Nov. 3, 727.

. . . Thrice-happy Hubert! thou art nigh
The foot-stool of the King!
In this lone place, O child of grace,
Henceforth in penance bide;
Forsake the court, forego the chase,
And follow the Crucified!"

From "Legend of the Best-Beloved."

Favorite Practice.

To permit no delay between God's inspiration and your correspondence to it.

November 4.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, Bishop and Confessor.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO was the nephew of Pope Pius IV. He was born in 1537 of one of the oldest, noblest, and wealthiest families of Lombardy, being the second son of Count Borromeo. From his earliest years the little Charles was so noted for the gravity and sanctity of his character, that his uncle, Pope Pius, created him cardinal-archbishop of Milan at the age of twenty-three. There the young prelate's life (as even a non-Catholic writer of note attests) presented a picture of active charity and self-denying humility, only to be equalled by those of the primitive apostles and teachers of Christianity. When the plague ravaged Milan, not satisfied with tending the sick in person, he offered himself solemnly to God as a sacrifice for his people. God did not demand that precious life; but the plague ceased miraculously. St. Charles died on Nov. 4, 1584, breathing out in rapture the words "*Ecce venio!*" He was the intimate friend of St. Philip Neri, and the patron of Palestrina.

. . . Rich in saving common-sense,
And, as the greatest only are,
In his simplicity sublime.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

Favorite Practice.

The motto of St. Charles was, "Humilitas." Engrave it on your heart.

November 5.

ST. ELIZABETH, Mother of St. John Baptist.

THIS chosen matron was the kinswoman of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was wife to the priest Zachary, being also herself descended from Aaron. They were well advanced in years, and had no children; but on a certain day, when Zachary was offering incense in the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and foretold the birth of the Baptist. Zachary doubted the word of the angel, and was stricken dumb for the following nine months. When the angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin the mystery of the Incarnation, he revealed to her, on the same occasion, that her cousin Elizabeth was also about to become a mother. Mary hastened to visit the house of her kinswoman. At the first sound of her voice, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. The unborn Baptist was endued with reason, and his mother bore testimony to Mary's office and dignity in these words: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb; and whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Right coming fair, and full of meekness,
Good and glad and lowly, I you ensure,
Is this goodly and angelic creature.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Favorite Practice.

A communion in honor of the mother of the Baptist.

November 6.

ST. LEONARD, Hermit.

ST. LEONARD was the god-son of the famous King Clovis, and was one of the chief noblemen of his court. Inspired by the example and preaching of St. Remigius, he renounced the world and consecrated himself entirely to the service of God. He became the apostle of the Franks; but through a great fear of honors from his royal sponsor, he sought refuge, first in the monastery of Micy, near Orleans, and later in the solitude of Noblac, near Limoges. Here he visited and consoled the inmates of a prison near his retreat, and made numerous converts among those unhappy creatures, some of whom became his disciples and entered a monastery which he founded for them. The holy founder rested peacefully from his labors in 550.

Thou, like the cloud, my sou.,
Dost in thyself of beauty naught possess
Devoid the light of heaven, a vapor foul,
The veil of nothingness.

JOHN B. TABB.

Favorite Practice.

To supply prisons and reformatories with Catholic books and journals.

November 7.

ST. WILBROD, Bishop.

IT was by the great and persuasive zeal of St. Wilbrod, bishop of Utrecht, that the conquest of the Dutch provinces to Christianity, in the eighth century, was accomplished. Charles Martel had, by force of arms, vanquished the Frieslanders; but after their subjugation they remained bitterly rebellious under the yoke imposed upon them, and, being idolaters, naturally hated the Christian faith, which was that of their detested masters. St. Wilbrod, having obtained the permission and protection of Pepin, son of Charles Martel, travelled as a missionary of Christ through Friesland, Holland, and Zeeland, preaching everywhere the gospel of glory to God on high, and peace on earth to men of good-will. He converted the whole three provinces, and before his death (which occurred about the year 738) he had the happiness of seeing these new subjects of his prince connected by the most indissoluble bonds with the great household of faith.

He comes, by grace of his address,
By the sweet music of his face,
And his low tones of tenderness,
To melt a noble, stubborn race.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

To strive to win by gentleness those who have been embittered by oppression.

November 8.

ST. SEVERUS AND HIS THREE BROTHERS, Martyrs.

THE Sovereign Pontiff Paul II. having been inspired by Heaven to rebuild a certain church on the boundary of the Lavican Way, God permitted the work to be the means of revealing the relics and titles of four of His hidden martyrs. It was known that this ancient church had been reared above the sacred remains of certain holy saints who were invoked under the title of the Four Crowned Martyrs. But nothing further was remembered of the history of those long-departed servants of God. The workmen, however, by the order of the Pope excavating the ruined old church, came upon a crypt beneath the altar, wherein lay concealed some vases or urns of porphyry. These, when opened by the proper authorities, were found to contain the precious relics and names of the Four Crowned Martyrs. They proved to be four brothers, Severus, Severian, Carpophorus, and Victorius, who were high civil officers of the city of Rome in the latter part of the third and beginning of the fourth century, and who suffered martyrdom under the emperor Diocletian in the year of our Lord 304.

Respect the past for all the good it knew:
Give noble lives and struggling truths their due.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

Favorite Practice.

A devotion to the hidden life.

November 9.

ST. THEODORUS, Martyr.

THEODORUS, a Christian soldier, was one of the Roman legion at Amasius during the persecution of Galerian and Maximian. He boldly professed his faith, saying, "I am a Christian; do with me what you like; and not only refused to sacrifice to the false gods, but, putting a torch to the temple of Cybele, he drew the attention of the idolaters to the indisputable fact that the wooden temple was forthwith reduced to ashes, and the stone deity to a heap of lime. He was tortured by the pagan executioners in the most atrocious manner; but while his flesh was cruelly torn by irons, he calmly chanted passages from the Psalms. Defeating the designs of his judge by his heroic endurance, Theodorus was finally burned at the stake on February 17, A.D. 306.

. . . Unto the victor only belongs the victor's palm,
And, after the fight, the soldier may rest in slumber calm.

ELEANOR C. DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

When agitated by any powerful emotion, to repeat verses from sacred hymns until the soul is calmed.

NOVEMBER 10.

ST. ANDREW AVELLINO, Confessor.

A CELEBRATED lawyer of Naples (where he was born in the year 1521), Andrew Avellino was the possessor of so many natural gifts, and was so flattered, in consequence, by many admiring friends, that, had he not been as pious as he was brilliant, he might have been in great peril of his eternal salvation. But the noble Andrew was not destined to remain long in the society of worldlings. His conscience was one of extreme delicacy; and having on a certain occasion violated the truth in pleading a case at the bar, he was so penetrated with horror and remorse at his offence against Him who is the Eternal Truth that he withdrew at once from the practice of the law and entered the religious Order of the Theatines. In his new vocation he labored with all his characteristic zeal and energy, and was the instrument of God in the reform of many abuses of his day. He died in the year 1608, being struck with apoplexy while at the foot of the altar.

Oh! there are endless means and ways, some stormy and some sweet,
Through which God's guiding Hand conducts His favored children's feet!

LADY FULLERTON.

Favorite Practice.

To shun with scrupulous care the smallest insincerity.

November 11.

ST. MARTIN, Bishop of Tours.

MARTIN was the son of pagan parents, and was born in Pannonia about the year 316. He was a soldier by profession; but in his early manhood was enrolled among the Christian catechumens, and prepared himself most piously for holy baptism. One day, in passing through a gate of the town of Amiens, he met a half-naked beggar who besought an alms. Martin, moved with pity, divided his cloak with his sword, and gave one half to the beggar. The next night our Lord and His Blessed Mother appeared to Martin in a dream, and the former, showing the torn cloak, exclaimed, "Behold Martin, the catechumen, who gave Me this garment!" This vision so inflamed the young soldier with divine love and zeal that he renounced at once the military service and consecrated himself entirely to God. He was soon elevated, by his great sanctity, to the see of Tours, and became (as a pious writer attests) the glory of Gaul and the light of the Church. St. Martin wrought numerous miracles, and died in the year 400.

. . . The theme which fills with love
The earth beneath
And all the stars above,
And scatters with its light
The gloom of death.

B. I. Durward

Favorite Practice.

To clothe the naked for God's sake.

ST. NILUS, Hermit.

THE noble Nilus was appointed by the emperor Arcadius in the fourth century of the Christian era, to fill the important post of prefect of Constantinople. Nilus had been trained in Christian piety by the great St. John Chrysostom, and, being addicted to the serious contemplation of eternal truths, he felt called by the Divine Spirit to retire from the haunts of men, and seek the practice of perfection in some solitary place. He and his good wife felt mutually attracted to a religious life. In the fulfilment of the will of God, Nilus withdrew with his son to the desert of Sinai about the year 390; and his wife remained in retirement, directing her young daughter in the paths of virtue. The holy hermit employed his pen most zealously for the salvation of immortal souls. His learned and pious treatises were distributed far and wide; and he kept up an active and fruitful correspondence with all those of the faithful who sought his counsel.

. . . Are we not called to part,
Fix all our hopes upon a holier world,
And through the cloister climb the steps of heaven
With works of mercy?

MARION MUIR.

Favorite Practice.

To encourage the circulation of Catholic books and periodicals.

November 13.

ST. STANISLAUS KOTSKA, Confessor.

THIS little angel of the Society of Jesus was the son of a Polish senator, and was born in the year 1550. His mother was a woman of most exalted piety; and the young Stanislaus was educated chiefly by her until he reached his fourteenth year. Being sent with his elder brother Paul, under the care of a preceptor, to the Jesuit College of Vienna, the boy made rapid strides in the science of the saints. He had much to suffer from the ill-treatment of his worldly brother and his tutor, who compelled him to lodge with them at the house of a Protestant in Vienna; but Stanislaus bore all with angelic sweetness and patience. Called unmistakably by the voice of God, the holy youth entered the Society of Jesus. His father in vain exerted his utmost to oppose the designs of Heaven. St. Francis Borgia approved of the vocation of that chosen soul; but Stanislaus did not live to complete his novitiate, dying at Rome, on the Feast of our Blessed Lady's Assumption, before he had attained his eighteenth year.

My tears are uplift like the dews in the sun,
The mists of my mourning are melted and gone;
And my soul, like a bird in its day-lighted nest,
Is pouring the joyance of song from its breast!

HON. IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

Favorite Practice.

To commend our Catholic children to the patronage of St. Stanislaus.

November 14.

ST. LAWRENCE, Bishop.

ST. LAWRENCE was the well-beloved archbishop of Dublin, Ireland, in the latter part of the eleventh century. His diocese was at that period a wealthy one, but the holy prelate reduced himself to poverty in order to bestow all he possessed on the poor. From time to time, in order to labor more efficiently in the reformation of his people, he gave himself to spiritual retreats, whence he returned to his charge with fresh zeal and holiness. To establish a more fervent life among his clergy, he assumed the habit and rule of St. Augustine, and induced his canons to adopt the same. A *vendetta* having been planned against one of the Irish kings by the ruling English monarch, St. Lawrence traversed both land and sea to seek an audience with the latter, Henry II., and by his heavenly eloquence brought about his reconciliation with his enemy. He died at Eu in 1081, on his way home from that exalted mission.

Historic Muse! my joyous voice inspire
To sing Faith's wonders with celestial fire!
. . . . . .
Then to a tale in which both virtues strong
And burning zeal and piety belong,
Propitious lend thine aid.

REV. HENRY A. BRANN, D.D.

Favorite Practice.

To exert yourself to reconcile enemies.

November 15.

ST. GERTRUDE, Virgin.

ST. GERTRUDE was one of those chosen souls whose life and writings attract the Christian soul to contemplate great natural gifts transfigured by a celestial sanctity. As a young religious of the Benedictine Order, Gertrude was so delicate in health that her superiors were obliged to dispense her continually from the rigor of the rules. The obedient nun never remonstrated, but submitted herself like so much wax to be moulded unresistingly to the will of her mistresses. This was so pleasing to our Lord that He declared once to another chosen servant, "If you seek Me in any other resting-place after that of the altar, you will find Me in the heart of My dear Gertrude." Eventually elected abbess of Rodersdorff in Saxony, St. Gertrude gave to the world her book of "Revelations," which contains the account of her communications with God, and her transports of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a prelude, as it were, to the revelations made three centuries later to the Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque. St. Gertrude died the death of divine love in 1334.

Strike the harps, until the harps above
Give to ours the full response of love;
Tune the viols, till their sweetness soars
Where each seraph Jesu's Heart adores.

ELIZA ALLEN STARR.

Favorite Practice.

St. Gertrude's prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

ST. EUCHERIUS, Bishop.

INSPIRED by a special and powerful grace from God, the gifted Eucherius abandoned a brilliant station in the world and followed his two sons to the monastic solitude of Lérins. The young men were the disciples of the wise St. Honoratus; and Eucherius, having made choice of the same holy director, attained under his care to such a degree of sanctity that he was elected, against his will, to fill the bishopric of Lyons. He discharged the duties of that responsible office with great zeal and perfection. He wrote many spiritual treatises, among which the most notable are the "Solitary Life" and "Contempt of the World," on both of which topics he was admirably fitted to discourse because of his own unusual experience. St. Eucherius died in the year 450.

What seek we here of harrowing care,
Of toil or trade, or mart or manners,
While round us on the soft, sweet air,
Peace dreams on Nature's leafy banners?

DANIEL CONNOLLY.

Favorite Practice.

To read such books as will engender in you a contempt of the world.

November 17.

ST. GREGORY THAUMATURGUS, Bishop.

GREGORY, Bishop of Tours, was a devoted client of the great St. Martin. He wrote a beautiful life of that saint, who, two centuries before, had been Gregory's predecessor in the same see; and he spent long nights in prayer beside St. Martin's tomb. In his great humility, Gregory attributed to the powerful intercession of that holy patron the numerous miracles which he himself performed, and which have won for him the title of Thaumaturgus. When the cause of the Church, and the claims of justice and faith demanded it, the humble Gregory, however, did not hesitate to brave the anger of Kings Chilperic, Fredegund, and Gontran. Before his death, he enjoined his attendants to inter his remains before the porch of his basilica, so that every passer-by might tread him, as it were, beneath his feet. He died in 595, and was buried as he had commanded.

Humility, that low sweet root
From which all heavenly virtues shoot.

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice.

Hide your good deeds under the mantle of true modesty.

St. Albert's College Library

ST. ALPHEUS AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

IN the nineteenth year of the emperor Diocletian, on the occasion of the twentieth celebration of the public games, an amnesty was proclaimed against all criminals, save and except the prisoners who were condemned for professing the faith of Jesus Christ. These latter, on the contrary, were treated with additional cruelty. On the 17th of November of that year, Alpheus, reader of the church of Cæsarea, and Zaccheus, deacon of Gadara (captives for the faith), were martyred at Antioch; and with them suffered, at the same time, St. Romanus, exorcist of Cæsarea, and a child-martyr named Barulas. These blessed saints are all commemorated together in the Martyrology, because they won their crowns at the same date.

Reared on lone heights and rare,
His saints their watch-flame bear,
And the mad world sees the wide-circling blaze,
Vain searching whence it streams, and how to quench its rays.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Favorite Practice.

At such times as worldlings are given to greater dissipation, strive to serve God with greater recollection.

November 19.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow.

ST. ELIZABETH, called by her people "the dear St Elizabeth," was the daughter of King Andrew II. of Hungary and the beloved spouse of the landgrave Louis of Thuringia. She was the good angel of the landgrave's court; but her heroic virtues were often a reproach to others less holy, and she was tried by many persecutions. When about twenty years of age Elizabeth was deprived of the protection of her devoted husband. He started with his liege lord, Frederick II., to join the Third Crusade, but died of fever before he reached Palestine. His brother cruelly turned Elizabeth out of doors with her four children, the youngest being a babe at the breast. The holy young widow rejoiced to suffer these pains with her despised Lord. She was ultimately restored to her rights, but led a life of wonderful penance and humility to the end, enrolled in the Third Order of St. Francis. In her last agony she sang like an angel, and died Nov. 19, 1231, having just completed her twenty-fourth year. Many miracles are recorded in her life.

Sweet lips whereon perpetually did reign
The summer calm of golden charity.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

Favorite Practice.

An alms to the poor, purchased at the expense of some personal pleasure.

ST. EDMUND, King and Martyr.

DURING the reign of Edmund, king of the East Angles, the Danes, headed by their ferocious chief Hingar, made an incursion into England. Edmund, who was a wise and just prince, endeavored to repel the rude invaders, and was at first successful in battle against them; but the latter returning to the charge, the Christian monarch and his forces were irretrievably vanquished. Hingar had vowed an implacable hatred against the faith of Christ, and he now proposed to King Edmund that if he would abolish Christianity in his dominions he should be rewarded by being reinstated on his throne. Edmund rejected the infamous proposal with indignation and horror. The Danish chief then subjected the holy king to many and painful tortures. He was scourged, flayed, and, having been tied to a tree, was pierced, like St. Sebastian, with arrows, slowly driven in one by one. Edmund, however, remained constant to Christ, and repeatedly pronounced the holy name Jesus, which so enraged Hingar that he caused him to be beheaded on Nov. 20, 870.

The royal way
To realms above is woe.

FATHER ADRIAN ROUQUETTE.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect upon those words of the Gospel, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

November 21.

PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

THIS festival commemorates a beautiful, touching, and significant act in the life of the Mother of God. From the first moment of her conception in the womb of Anna, Mary offered and consecrated her immaculate being entirely and irrevocably to the Deity; but (as the sacred tradition of the Church assures us), at the tender age of three years, she made an open confirmation of that sacrifice in the Temple of Jerusalem. Attended by her father Joachim and her mother Anna, the immaculate child uttered her vow of consecration in the presence of the officiating priest, and then voluntarily bade her parents farewell, and withdrew into the sacred retreat of the Temple, to hide herself among the young virgins who were there received and trained in their exalted duties. She did not leave the Temple again until she was espoused to St. Joseph. The festival of the Presentation is of great antiquity, having been celebrated in the Eastern Church as early as 895.

And after her (the prophets sing)
Shall many virgins, following,
Be led with gladness to the King!

From "Crowned with Stars."

Favorite Practice.

Renew your baptismal vows and holy resolutions.

November 22.

ST. CECILIA, Virgin and Martyr.

THIS noble virgin was born in Rome towards the close of the second century, while Alexander Severus was the reigning emperor. Her talent for music was remarkable, and she not only composed and sang hymns, but is said to have invented the organ, consecrating it to the service of God. When she was about sixteen, her parents married her to a young senator named Valerian. He was a pagan, but of a noble and generous nature. Cecilia having revealed to him the vow of virginity she had made, the young husband reverenced her angelic resolution; and Cecilia was the means of converting him and his brother, Tiburtius, to Christianity. After their martyrdom, the young widow was put to the torture, being first immersed in boiling water (from which she emerged unscathed), and then struck with an axe in the head and breast. She lay bleeding from these cruel wounds for the space of three days, praying, and exhorting all who visited her, and at last expired, singing hymns of praise to God. St. Cecilia is the patroness of sacred music.

. . . When to her organ vocal breath was given,
An angel heard, and straight appeared,
Mistaking earth for heaven.

JOHN DRYDEN.

Favorite Practice.

A zeal for the beauty and solemnity of our Catholic music.

ST. CLEMENT, Pope and Martyr.

ST. CLEMENT was converted to the faith by the apostle St. Paul, and was the disciple and fellow-laborer not only of that great Doctor, but also of St. Peter. The latter is believed to have consecrated St. Clement as bishop, and he succeeded St. Cletus as the third Supreme Pontiff of the Church. Whilst he occupied the Chair of Peter a schism took place among the believers at Corinth. But the zeal and holiness of St. Clement overcame the malicious attempts of the arch-enemy. The niece of the reigning emperor, Domitian, being one of St. Clement's converts to the faith, the Pope enjoyed immunity from persecution until the accession of Trajan. But after that event began the third general persecution of the Christians, and St. Clement was martyred by decapitation in the year 101.

Who guides the bark in times so dark?
A Higher Power, in supreme hour,
At helm doth stand and take command.

MADAME MADELEINE VINTON DAHLGREN.

Favorite Practice.

To pray God daily to avert from His children all heresies and schisms.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, Confessor.

JOHN D'YEPEZ was a contemporary and co-worker of St. Teresa of Jesus. He was born in her native place, Avila, in 1542, and was blessed by God with a saintly mother who trained him in the school of Christ, until the youth thirsted for nothing more ardently than to become a living copy of his suffering Master. At the age of twenty-one, he entered the Carmelite monastery at Medina, and took there the name of "John of the Cross." He labored with St. Teresa in the reform of their great Order, and was himself the first barefooted or discalced Carmelite. His virtue was proved and perfected by many extraordinary trials; but all his sufferings served only to increase his profound spirit of humility and mortification. He died on Dec. 14, 1591; and God glorified His servant by numerous miracles.

The cross on Golgotha
Will never save thy soul;
The cross in thine own heart
Alone can make thee whole.
From the German of ANGELUS SILESIUS.

Favorite Practice.

To say often, "By Thy cross and Passion, dear Lord, deliver me!"

November 25.

ST. CATHARINE, Virgin and Martyr.

DISTINGUISHED for her rank, wealth, and unusual erudition, Catharine of Alexandria is said to have been a granddaughter of Constantius Chlorus, father of Constantine the Great. She braved the wrath of the tyrant Maximianus, and boldly pleaded the cause of the Christians he persecuted; and when he instructed fifty of the most learned men of his empire to overcome her arguments by their erudition, Catharine disputed with them so ably and lucidly that she converted them all to the faith. Then the emperor, struck with her beauty and intelligence, sought to tamper with her virtue; but Catharine not only repulsed the monster with scorn, but managed to convert the empress and more than two hundred of the attendants of the imperial court. Maximian, enraged, ordered the heroic girl to be broken on the wheel, but an angel rescued her from that torture. Then she was condemned to be beaten with rods and beheaded, which was done on Nov. 25, A.D. 307. When she was dead, angels took up her body and bore it over the desert and over the Red Sea, to the summit of Mount Sinai.

Descending swiftly from the skies,
Her guardian angel came;
He struck God's lightning from her eyes,
And bore him back the flame.

RICHARD DALTON WILLIAMS.

Favorite Practice.

To sanctify study by prayer.

NOVEMBER 26.

ST. PETER, Bishop of Alexandria.

THIS heroic bishop of Alexandria was a man of great learning and great sanctity. He was the first to excommunicate Meletius and Arius, in spite of the combined efforts of their powerful partisans. As the persecution of Diocletian raged during his holy episcopate, St. Peter lost no opportunity of exhorting his flock to courage and final perseverance. He constantly taught his disciples that in order to be able to die for one's faith, one must begin by the practice of daily dying to one's self, by renouncing one's will, and by detachment from all things. The holy man added the force of example to precept, as he himself underwent martyrdom with great intrepidity in the year 311.

On death and judgment, heaven and hell,
Who oft doth think, must needs die well.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

Favorite Practice.

To deny one's self some little thing each day in preparation for a good death.

November 27.

ST. MAXIMUS, Bishop.

WHEN St. Honoratus, abbot of Lerins, was made bishop of Arles, Maximus was chosen to succeed him as superior of the monastery which was very large, and famous for the learning and piety of its inmates. The new abbot was a marvel of sweetness and gentleness. So persuasive, in fact, was his kindly rule over the brethren, and so powerful was his own beautiful example of religious virtue, that the exercise of authority became a needless thing in that great united family, and submission to their beloved superior proved naught save a pleasant duty. St. Maximus was twice elected bishop of neighboring sees. The first time he took to flight; but being compelled at last to accept the bishopric of Riez, he discharged the office with his characteristic benignity, and died in 460, universally regretted.

Of all Heaven's gifts, the sweetest,
Sure, is peace,—the sweetest and the best.
From the Portuguese of Sister Violante Do Ceo.

Favorite Practice.

Sweetness to inferiors.

ST. STEPHEN THE YOUNGER, Martyr.

IN the eighth century of the Christian era, St. Stephen surnamed the Younger (doubtless to distinguish him from St. Stephen the Protomartyr), was abbot of the monastery of St Auxentius in Bithynia. He was famous for his virtues and his miracles; but because he opposed himself with great zeal and energy to the Iconoclast, Constantine Copronymus and a council of heretical bishops, he was sentenced to banishment. "You would take it ill," said he to the Iconoclasts, "were I to insult the image of the emperor; and you would have me cast into the flames the image of my Lord!" Subsequently the emperor caused him to be imprisoned and tortured, after which his wounded body was dragged along the public streets. His skull was fractured at last by a heavy club, and his martyrdom thus effected, in the year 764.

Nor heed the shaft too surely cast,
The hissing, stinging bolt of scorn;
For with thy side shall dwell at last
The victory of endurance born.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Favorite Practice.

A zeal to protect holy images from insult or disrespect

November 29.

ST. SATURNINUS, Martyr.

ST. SATURNINUS was the companion and co-laborer of St. Denis when the latter was sent by Pope St. Fabian, in the third century, to evangelize Gaul. He became bishop of Toulouse, and to his presence in that region the pagans attributed the fact that their oracles were deprived of speech. Exasperated by the silence of the idols in their famous temple of the Capitol, they seized and dragged Saturninus to the spot and commanded him either to adore the false gods or restore to them their lost power. The brave bishop boldly told them that their gods were demons who were reduced to silence by the presence of the missionary of the true God. "How then," he questioned, "can you expect me to adore them?" The populace, enraged at this question, fell upon him and maltreated him in a terrible manner. They pierced him with a lance, and then tying him to the tail of a wild bull, the martyr was torn to pieces. This was about the year 250.

Imprint, O Lord, Thy wounds upon my heart,
That I therein Thy grief and love may see:
Grief to endure for Thee all other griefs;
Love to renounce all other loves for Thee.

From "Children of the Golden Sheaf."

Favorite Practice.

Great courage in discountenancing superstitious practices.

November 30.

ST. ANDREW, the Apostle.

ST. ANDREW was the brother of St. Peter and, like him, a fisherman. He was a disciple of St. John the Baptist, but on hearing him say one day, "Behold the Lamb of God!" pointing as he did so to our Blessed Lord, he immediately followed Him, and was the first called of the Apostles. He lost no time, after that, in bringing his brother to our Lord, who admitted him among His disciples, and changed his name from Simon to that of Peter. St. Andrew carried the light of the Gospel into Scythia, Sogdiana, Colchis, Epirus, Pontus, and Achaia. He was apprehended by Egeas, the proconsul, imprisoned, and most cruelly beaten. He was crucified at Patras, in Achaia, on a cross in the form of the letter X; and after hanging on it for two days, preaching to the people, he gave up his blessed soul, encompassed by a great light, A.D. 69.

. . . I tasted all the sweets of sacrifice;
I kissed my cross a thousand times a day,
I hung and bled upon it in my dreams,
I lived on it,—I loved it to the last.

FATHER RYAN.

Favorite Practice.

To say often with St. Andrew, "I salute thee, ever-precious Cross!"

December.

Raptur'd, cries DECEMBER *hoar,*
"Queen conceiv'd without the stain
Of the sin of Adam,—reign
O'er our hearts forevermore!"

E. C. D.

DECEMBER 1.

ST. ELOI, Bishop.

ST. ELOI was originally a goldsmith, and comptroller of the public revenue to King Clothaire II. He was so skilful, so just and pious, that he was the admiration not only of the king and his court, but of the entire people. Called to a more perfect life, Eloi gave himself to two years of retreat, study, and penance; and after having been ordained a priest, he was elevated to the bishopric of Noyon in 638. His diocese abounded with pagans and, still worse, with nominal Christians who were sunk in the abominations of pagan superstition. For twenty years, the faithful shepherd of Noyon labored with unflagging zeal to convert and reform these wretched men. His life was often in peril, but his heroic fervor overcame all obstacles, and he rested happily from his successful labors on Dec. 1, 659, at the age of seventy.

O ye blind, your gods are worthless,
Things of stone and clay and wood.
See! an old man's arm unaided
Overthrew them where they stood.

SARA TRAINER SMITH.

Favorite Practice.

To ponder seriously the full significance of the first commandment of God.

DECEMBER 2.

ST. BIBIANA, Virgin and Martyr.

BIBIANA and Demetria were the daughters of Flavian, governor of Rome, by his wife Dafrosa. Flavian was exiled and afterwards martyred by Julian the Apostate because of his adherence to the faith of Christ. His two daughters were despoiled of their property and left for five months to the rigors of poverty. They suffered their privations calmly and uncomplainingly. But when Demetria stood to confess her faith before the judge Apronian, she expired from exhaustion, literally starved to death Bibiana, on her part, resisted bravely all threats, promises, and allurements of the flesh wherewith she was tempted by her enemies, and preserved her precious faith and virginity intact. She was ordered by the baffled judge to be bound to the stake and beaten to death with rods. He ordered, also, that her body be devoured by wild beasts; but a priest rescued the remains of the martyr, and gave them Christian burial. She suffered Dec. 2, A.D. 362.

A noble type of good—
Heroic womanhood.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To beg God to give us the grace to suffer every privation sooner than commit sin.

DECEMBER 3.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Confessor.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, known as the Apostle of the Indies, was born in 1505 of a most illustrious family, whose castle was in the Pyrenees. He was sent to study at the college of St. Barbara at Paris. Here he became the friend and associate of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Xavier was of a gay, ardent temperament, and enamored with the charms of worldly glory; but St. Ignatius repeated to him so often the text from the Gospel, "What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?" that St. Francis began to think more seriously of eternity and of the things thereof. He at last yielded his great heart completely to God, and, in conjunction with Ignatius, founded the Society of Jesus. He preached the Gospel in the Indies and Japan with marvellous success, and his labors were attended with many miracles. He died whilst struggling in his burning zeal to carry the faith into China, breathing his last on the little island of Sancian on Dec. 3, 1552. He was only in his forty-sixth year, but had reaped his harvest of immortal souls by the hundreds of thousands.

Thy history is fitly told
By seraph-scribes alone:
Thy deeds they write in living light
O'er Love's eternal throne.

MISS SKIDMORE.

Favorite Practice.

To pray for the conversion of idolaters and unbelievers.

DECEMBER 4.

ST. BARBARA, Virgin and Martyr.

BARBARA of Nicomedia was a beautiful young virgin of the third century who had been brought up secretly in the Christian faith. She is said to have been instructed and baptized by a disciple of the famous Origen. Her father Dioscorus, being a headstrong supporter of paganism, chanced to discover his daughter's exalted views. A violent fit of rage on his part was the consequence, but his threats and tears were alike unable to shake the maiden's constancy. So he shut her up in a strong tower and kept her imprisoned there. The persecution of Maximianus being in progress at the time, and Barbara remaining faithful to Christ, her father himself denounced her to the judges. She was put to the torture, racked, mutilated, burnt with red-hot coals, and her limbs dislocated. But as she bravely submitted to all, she was beheaded Dec. 4, A.D. 303.

Her look composed, and steadfast eye,
Bespoke a matchless constancy.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Favorite Practice.

To reflect that one's enemies, in a spiritual sense, are sometimes those of one's household.

DECEMBER 5.

ST. NICETUS, Bishop.

ONE of the most celebrated bishops of Gaul, in the sixth century of the Christian era, was the eloquent and zealous Nicetus of Trèves. His famous letter to Queen Clodosinde, wife of Alboin, the Arian king of the Lombards, abounds with powerful arguments, contrasting the abundant fruits of Christianity with the barren results of Arianism. "To procure the conversion of Alboin" (he writes to that royal lady), "do what your ancestress, Clothilde, accomplished for the conversion of Clovis. And if the king hesitates as to the truth let him send to the Church of St. Martin of Tours; there his envoys will behold the blind restored to sight; the deaf to hearing; the dumb to speech; and the lepers to health." St. Nicetus slept in the Lord, full of days and good works, about the year 566.

. . . To press still onward in the race,
And see, beyond, the heav'nly domes o'erpast,
Or watch their golden summits fade away!

ANNA T. SADLIER.

Favorite Practice.

To prove your faith by deeds, not by empty words.

DECEMBER 6.

ST. NICHOLAS, Bishop of Myra.

ST. NICHOLAS was bishop of Myra, in Lycia, in the beginning of the fourth century. His humility and extraordinary charity and tenderness to the poor acquired for him such a reputation of sanctity and influence with God that, even during his lifetime, his name was frequently invoked by his people in moments of danger. Once especially, when a fisherman's bark was on the point of sinking, the sailors cried, "Bishop of Myra, save us!" Immediately one who bore the outward guise of St. Nicholas appeared, walking on the water, and led the boat safely to land. The sailors went to return thanks to the bishop, who humbly replied, "It was not I." St. Nicholas died about 327. He is the original of the great Santa Klaus, so dear to childish hearts.

Sweet saint of God, and well-beloved of men!
On earth, with steadfast feet, the ways of God
By thee in peace and love and joy were trod.

MISS SUSAN L. EMERY.

Favorite Practice.

Secret alms to the deserving poor.

ST. AMBROSE, Bishop and Doctor.

ST. AMBROSE was the son of Ambrose, a prefect of Gaul, and was born at Treves in the year 340. He studied successfully at Rome, and was later appointed prefect of Æmilia and Liguria, taking up his residence at Milan. The bishopric of that city becoming vacant shortly after, Ambrose was elected, in a remarkable and almost miraculous manner, to fill that important office. With a noble courage, he rebuked the emperor Theodosius for the massacre of the Thessalonicans, and would not allow him to enter the church until he had done penance for his sin. This, the last great emperor of Rome consented to do, and humbly knelt in sackcloth and ashes at the door of the cathedral of Milan. St. Ambrose was an instrument of God in the conversion of the renowned Augustine. He baptized the latter in Milan, and, on that occasion composed, with his new disciple, the *Te Deum*, so famous as a hymn of praise in the Church of God. St. Ambrose died April 4, A.D. 397.

. . . Bees . . .
Thronged in and out, ...
And in the sleeping baby's mouth
Their nectar sweet deposited,
As chanced to Ambrose, once, of old.

From the Italian of FR. GIOVANNI COTTA, O.S.A., by E. C. D.

Favorite Practice.

Frequent recitation of the Te Deum.

DECEMBER 8.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B. V. MARY.

THIS great festival commemorates the still greater privilege of the Blessed Virgin Mary in being conceived without stain of original sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It was befitting the dignity and the office of the Mother of God that she should not have been permitted to be, for a single instant of her existence, under the ban of God's wrath or under the thraldom of the Demon whose head she was destined to crush. To her, were addressed the prophetic words of Holy Writ, "Thou art all fair, my beloved, and there is no spot in thee!" The Festival of the Immaculate Conception was first kept as a feast of devotion by St. Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, in 1070; and, as such, was enjoined by Sixtus IV., A.D. 1476, to be generally observed throughout the Church. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was defined by his late Holiness Pius IX., by whom the feast was made one of obligation.

Oh, shine on us brighter than ever, then shine!
For the primest of honors, dear Mother, is thine;
"Conceived without sin," thy new title shall be,
Clear light from thy birth-spring, sweet Star of the Sea!

FATHER FABER.

Favorite Practice.

To say, morning, noon, and night, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!"

ST. LEOCADIA, Martyr.

THE Spanish saint Leocadia was a native of Toledo, of which city she is now the renowned patroness. She was a devoted friend of St. Eulalia of Spain; and having heard in prison (where she had been incarcerated for the faith of Christ), of Eulalia's glorious martyrdom, Leocadia thirsted for a like end, and earnestly prayed to be united to her friend by a similar blessed death. Her prayer was granted. The persecution of Diocletian was in progress, and Leocadia was dragged before the governor Dacian. He caused her to be cast into chains, tortured with horrible atrocity, and then thrown again into her dungeon, where she expired from her multiplied sufferings. This was on April 26. Three of the grandest churches in Spain are dedicated to St. Leocadia.

Ah! then my soul should know,
Beloved, where Thou liest at noon of day;
And, from this place of woe
Released, should take its way,
To mingle with Thy flock and never stray.

From the Spanish of FRA LUIS PONCE DE LEON, O.S.A.

Favorite Practice.

To familiarize yourself with the sense of those words, "*I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ.*"

St. Albert's College Library

ST. MELCHIADES, Pope.

ST. MELCHIADES, or Miltiades, succeeded Eusebius in the see of Rome on July 2, 311, in the reign of Maxentius. The following year marked the victory of Constantine over that tyrant, and the free exercise of the Christian religion was the result of the great emperor's installation. But though this rejoiced the heart of Pope Melchiades, he had the affliction to see the seamless robe of Christ rent by the schism of the Donatists in Africa. The schismatics made an appeal to Constantine, but he wisely referred all to the Sovereign Pontiff and his bishops. St. Melchiades opened a council in the Lateran Palace on October 2, 313, at which Donatus of Casa-nigra, leader of the schism, was the only person condemned, the other bishops who adhered to him being allowed to retain their sees upon renouncing the schism. The holy Pontiff died on January 10, 314; and although the Donatists endeavored after his death to asperse his memory, St. Austin declares their scandalous charge to be a groundless and malicious calumny.

A name and a fame above the blight
Of earthly breath;
Beautiful, beautiful and bright,
In life and death.

MRS. HEMANS.

Favorite Practice.

To love the sinner whilst you zealously hate the sin.

ST. DAMASUS, Pope and Martyr.

ST. DAMASUS was only a deacon of the Church at the period when the Arian emperor Constantius sent into banishment the reigning Pontiff, Liberius. Filled with horror of the Arian heresy, the holy deacon bound himself by a solemn oath never to enter into a compromise with any schismatical successor who might be put forward to usurp the Chair of Peter. In course of time, Damasus was himself chosen for the great office of Sovereign Pontiff. He brought to the weighty position all the firmness and energy of his native character. His heavenly zeal reformed many grave abuses, and, with the sword of the Spirit, he proved himself an heroic adversary against the schisms which prevailed in that day. One of his wisest and most learned counsellors in his difficult duty was the famous St. Jerome. St. Damasus was martyred in 384.

Laying the outlines deep and broad
Of an infant Church, he daily trod
His path in the visible sight of God.

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.

Favorite Practice.

Pray God daily to increase the purity and strength of your gift of faith.

ST. SYNESIUS, Martyr.

DURING the pontificate of Sixtus II. Synesius was ordained Lector, an office ranking third in degree of the Sacrament of Holy Order, and from that time began to read the epistles and the prescriptions and ordinances of the spiritual pastors to the assembled faithful. As he converted many unbelievers and discharged the duties of his office with remarkable fruit, he was denounced, because of his zeal, to the emperor Aurelian. Synesius confessed the faith with heroic fervor and constancy, and, after being tortured in various ways, was beheaded in 270. Thus the humble Lector glorified God, and converted souls by the exact performance of his simple duties.

. . . "Amid the din of joy, fair Virtue sighs,
While the fierce conqueror binds his impious head
With laurel, and the car of triumph rolls."
Thus I; when, radiant 'fore my wondering eyes,
A heavenly spirit stood, and smiling said,
"Blind moralist! is earth the sphere of souls?"

From the Spanish of REV. BARTOLOMÉ LEONARDO ARGENSOLA.

Favorite Practice.

To do what you do with all diligence and perfection.

DECEMBER 13.

ST. LUCY, Virgin and Martyr.

IT was in the reign of Diocletian and Maximian that the Christian virgin Lucy dwelt with her mother, Eutychia, in the city of Syracuse. She had made secretly a vow of chastity, but at the age of fourteen her relatives betrothed her to a pagan youth of Syracuse who was both rich and noble. The widowed Eutychia had long suffered from disease, and the holy maiden, inspired by Heaven, urged her to visit the tomb of St. Agatha for the restoration of her health. Eutychia complied; and having obtained her cure, felt moved to allow her daughter to remain unmarried and to bestow her dowry upon the poor. Lucy's pagan lover, however, became enraged at the loss of his promised bride, and denounced her as a Christian to the governor Pascasius. The infamous judge condemned the virgin to a house of bad repute; but neither the pagan soldiers nor magicians could constrain the maid to enter that den of Satan. After passing unscathed through an additional trial by fire, she was pierced in the throat by a poniard, and won the crown of the martyr, Dec. 13, 303.

She is so perfect, true, and pure,
Her virtue all virtues so endears.

COVENTRY PATMORE.

Favorite Practice.

Do your duty, and God Himself will strengthen your weakness.

DECEMBER 14.

ST. SPIRIDION, Bishop and Confessor.

THE diocese of St. Spiridion, bishop of Tremithontes, in the fourth century, was very small, poor, and, of sparse population, his flock consisting either of shepherds or husbandmen. The good old bishop therefore devoted himself, in his leisure moments, to either tending the sheep or tilling the soil, and was only to be distinguished from his simple people by the greater sanctity and mortification of his humble life. His charity was extraordinary, and his hospitality unbounded. During the persecution of Maximian he bravely confessed the faith, and was exiled, in consequence, to the mines. St. Spiridion, though simple in manner as a little child, possessed a profound and cultured mind. He was one of the prelates at the councils of Nicæa and Sarrica, and was the champion of St. Athanasius at the latter. He was granted the gift of miracles, and died about the year 348.

Ye ask how Wisdom thus can play in children's guise?
Why, Wisdom *is* a child: so's every man that's wise.

From the German of REV. FR. J. SCHEFFLER.

Favorite Practice.

Turn your daily labor into prayer.

ST. PAUL, Hermit.

ST. PAUL, an anchorite of Bithynia, had betaken himself to Mount Latre in order to lead a life of greater seclusion and more perfect union with God. Here he gave himself to prayer and penance, subsisting solely upon roots, herbs, and nuts, and drinking only of the stream which flowed near his cave. But his Divine Master, seeing the generosity of His servant's soul, sent him many terrible temptations and trials in the midst of the solitude. Distrusting himself completely, and relying confidently on the power of God, St. Paul made use of the weapons of prayer, mortification, and continual vigilance, and by them triumphed over all the snares of the arch-enemy. After this severe conflict he became the founder of several monasteries. His counsel was sought by pontiffs and prelates; and even the highest princes of the age addressed themselves to him for advice. He died in 956.

My tears shall be my wine,
My bed a craggy rock;
My harmony the serpent's hiss,
The screeching owl my clock.

REV. FATHER SOUTHWELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

To distrust yourself, even when entirely alone.

ST. ADONIUS, Bishop.

FIRST a pious monk of Ferrières, and later abbot of Prom, the holy Adonius was finally elevated to the archbishopric of Vienne in Dauphiné, and became the counsellor, in turn, of the Pope Nicholas I., and of the kings Charles the Bald, and Louis of Germany. Prior to his episcopal consecration, Adonius had been the victim of hatred and calumny, and had been for a time a voluntary exile. But God thus grounded him in practical humility in preparation for the exalted position which awaited him. He executed a thorough reform in his diocese. His own personal example to his clergy and people was one of persevering mortification and recollection, and his life seemed one continual prayer. To the practice of high sanctity, he united the cultivation of ecclesiastical learning and polite literature. St. Adonius lived to a ripe age, and died about Dec. 16, 875.

. . . This punishment on earth is given
That my pure soul may rise to endless bliss in heaven.
From the French of MARY STUART, QUEEN OF THE SCOTS.

Favorite Practice.

Recollection of the Divine Presence in distracting duties.

ST. OLYMPIADA, Widow.

AT the tender age of seventeen the young Olympiada found herself a widow of immense wealth. Offers of marriage were made to her by some of the most illustrious courtiers of the emperor Theodosius, but Olympiada preferred to remain what St. Paul terms "a widow indeed." She placed herself under the spiritual direction of St. John Chrysostom; and her alms to the poor were so abundant, and her austerities so extreme, that her director was often obliged to check her pious indiscretions. Of course, as a favorite child of Heaven, the young widow met with prolonged persecutions; and she shed so many tears that St. Chrysostom averred that her tears and her charities might have formed, if united, a vast river. Having given all her revenues to the indigent, she was despoiled of her estates because of her faith, by the order of the prefect of Constantinople. She passed from a state of holy poverty to the possession of eternal riches in the year 410.

. . . Feeling naught of fear,—
In beauty beaming (bright as heaven's skies),
For Him who deems the humble heart full wise.

JOSEPH W. S. NORRIS.

Favorite Practice.

Strive to lay up treasures where neither rust nor moth can consume.

THE EXPECTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

"JESUS is united with His Blessed Mother," says the devout Nouet, "as the fruit with the tree that produces it: with this difference, that the fruit draws its nourishment from the tree that bears it, whilst Jesus communicates His perfections, inclinations, and desires to the Blessed Virgin. The first desire she forms by the inspiration of her divine Son (hidden in her chaste womb) is to give Him to men as their Saviour and Redeemer. . . . . The second desire of the Blessed Virgin is to see Jesus. . . . .The third is to serve Jesus Christ as her Son and her God. . . . .Consider the day well employed if you can, by frequent acts, enkindle in your heart the desire of serving God, of seeing God, and of communicating to the whole world the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ His only Son."

She will come, our Lady *full of grace*,
To her place;
She will come, and tell how Jesu's veins
Took from hers the sparkling Blood. . .
. . . Its human tide
In Himself Godhead's self allied.

ELIZA ALLEN STARR.

Favorite Practice.

A fervent act of desire for the birth of Christ in all hearts.

ST. NEMESIAN, Martyr.

TOWARDS the middle of the third century there dwelt in the neighborhood of Alexandria, a pious Christian student whose days were sanctified by works of charity. Some wicked persons, misunderstanding his secluded life, accused him of being a brigand. Nemesian (for such was his name) readily proved the falsity of this slander. "Then," said his enemies, "you must be a Christian!" "Ah!" returned the good confessor, "this time I do not intend to justify myself; I am a Christian, and mean to remain so." Brought before the prefect of Alexandria, Nemesian was ranked by that official, in a blind fury, as one of the worst of criminals. He was condemned to be burned at the stake with several others. Four soldiers who were present at the martyrdom, having manifested some feeling at the terrible sufferings of the victims, were ordered by the tyrant to be beheaded. This was during the persecution of Decius, about the year 250.

But some looked heavenward, and smiled, clear-eyed,
Through sunbright riftings of the mists of pain.
"Our word has come!" they cried, and gave the strain,
"Wait on the Lord! Ye shall be satisfied!"

SARA TRAINER SMITH.

Favorite Practice.

To justify yourself only where your silence might give scandal.

DECEMBER 20.

ST. PHILOGONUS, Bishop.

THE holy priest Philogonus was appointed to the see of Antioch in the year 318. His life in the episcopate was an exemplar of sanctity to his entire flock. He was noted for his charity and zeal, and was a determined opponent of Arianism. The purity and heroism of his faith were practically demonstrated when he ranked among the brave confessors of the Church during the persecution of Maximian. Philogonus only governed the see of Antioch five years; but when he slept in the Lord, in 323, he left the affairs of his diocese in a most prosperous condition. His panegyric was pronounced by the renowned sacred orator, St. John Chrysostom.

Stronger than steel
Is the sword of the Spirit;
Swifter than arrows
The light of the truth is;
Greater than anger
Is love, and subdueth!

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Favorite Practice.

To often repeat in your daily tasks, "Not how much, but how well."

ST. THOMAS, Apostle.

ST. THOMAS was one of the twelve Apostles of Christ. He was absent when our Lord appeared to His assembled disciples on the evening after His resurrection from the dead. Being told by the rest that they had seen the Lord, he said he would not believe unless he saw in His hands the print of the nails, and put his finger into the place of the nails, and put his hand into His side. This incredulity of St. Thomas was permitted by God to furnish an indisputable proof of the reality of Christ's resurrection. For the Lord appearing again to the disciples on the following Sunday, and St. Thomas being present, Jesus condescended to the weakness of the Apostle, inviting him to touch His sacred wounds, and to be not faithless but believing. St. Thomas, overwhelmed with awe and gratitude, cried out, "My Lord and my God!" After Pentecost, he preached the Gospel to the Parthians, Medes, Persians, and Hyrcanians. He then went into India, where he evangelized the people until his happy martyrdom. He was thrust through the body with lances, and gave up his blessed soul at Calamina, A.D. 44.

O God, my God, whom I adore and love:
To say *my* God is joy all joys above.

EUGÉNIE DE GUÉRIN.

Favorite Practice.

Frequent acts of faith in the Divinity of our Lord.

DECEMBER 22.

ST. THEMISTOCLES, Martyr.

ON the heights near Myra, in Lycia, there dwelt in the third century a simple shepherd named Themistocles. Whilst he tended his flocks in that solitary place he gave himself continually to prayer and meditation. One day a Christian named Dioscorus, pursued by the persecutors, fled up the rocky steep and sought a refuge in the retreat of Themistocles. The fugitive was tracked to the spot, and the shepherd was commanded to deliver up the victim. But Themistocles heroically refused, at his own peril, to betray the trust reposed in him. When pressed closely for a reason for his resistance alike to the promises and threats of the pursuers, the humble shepherd openly avowed that he himself was a Christian. This was enough. He was arrested at once, and led before the governor of the province. The tortures to which the confessor was subjected were most inhuman. He was alternately scourged, racked, and dragged, all wounded as he was, over sharp flints and potsherds. He expired in the midst of these sufferings, the date of his martyrdom being about the year 250.

His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles,
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate.

SHAKSPEARE.

Favorite Practice.

A fraternal love which is truly pure, because disinterested.

DECEMBER 23.

ST. VICTORIA, Virgin and Martyr.

VICTORIA was a young Christian virgin who led a life of singular holiness, in the third century. She had espoused herself to Christ by the vow of chastity, and, by her beautiful example, enkindled an additional fervor in those of her young companions who had bound themselves likewise to perpetual virginity. God accorded her the gift of miracles, and the fame of her sanctity spread over the city of Rome. But the hour of her trial was near at hand. Her parents, without Victoria's knowledge, had promised her in marriage to the pagan Eugenius. When the suitor pressed her to marry him, however, and the maiden firmly refused his addresses, Eugenius went himself and denounced her to the judge. She was tortured before the eyes of that revengeful pagan, but bravely refused to sacrifice her faith or her virginity. Eugenius, inflamed with angry hatred, clamored for her death, and caused the virgin martyr to be pierced to the heart by the hand of the executioner. This was during the persecution of Decius, in the year 250.

But the Lord Himself was with her to pity her and love her;
Earthly lover shared not her maiden heart with Him,
And the gentle Virgin Mother and the angels bent above her,
And their glory brightened round her as the lights of time grew dim.

KATHARINE E. CONWAY.

Favorite Practice.

Neither take nor break lightly a solemn vow or pledge.

DECEMBER 24.

ST. THRASILLA, Virgin.

ST. THRASILLA was the aunt of St. Gregory the Great. In her early youth she consecrated her virginity to God, and thenceforth led a life of devotion and service to the poor. In her good works, prayers, and penances she found a fervent co-laborer in her sister St. Emiliana, who emulated Thrasilla's pious zeal. Their single hearted constancy in the practice of perfection was so pleasing to God that He revealed to them before death that they were admitted to the glory of the saints. Their deceased uncle, the holy pontiff Felix, appeared to Thrasilla, saying to her, "Come, I will lead thee to the realms of bliss." At the moment of death she had a consoling vision of our Lord Jesus Christ, and expired happily on the vigil of Christmas Day.

Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind!
Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resigned.
. . . . . .
Grace shines around her with serenest beams,
And whisp'ring angels prompt her golden dreams.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Favorite Practice.

To promote a holy union of good works in one's household.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

"AND it came to pass that in those days there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. . . . And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and family of David,) to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass, that, when they were there, her days were accomplished that she would be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling-clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."—ST. LUKE ii. 1–7.

The song through all heaven's arches ran,
And told the wondrous tale aloud;
The trembling fire that looked so wan,
The weeping sun behind the cloud:
A God—a God become a Man!
A mortal Man become a God!

From SISTER VIOLANTE DO CEO (*styled the Tenth Muse of Portugal*).

Favorite Practice.

To hear three Masses on this glorious festival of Christmas.

DECEMBER 26.

ST. STEPHEN, Protomartyr.

STEPHEN was one of the seven deacons chosen by the Apostles after the descent of the Holy Ghost. He announced the Gospel with such zeal and power that the wrath of the Jews was enkindled, and they dragged him before the judges, and preferred false charges against him. And speaking, Stephen confessed Christ, and openly rebuked the deicides there assembled. "And hearing these things" (says the Acts of the Apostles), "they were cut to the heart; and they gnashed with their teeth at him. . . . And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God. And they, crying out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and with one accord rushed in violently upon him. And having cast him out of the city, they stoned him, invoking and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And kneeling down, he cried out with a loud voice, saying, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep in the Lord." This was A.D. 34.

The lighter hardship, longer borne of a true Christian life,
Help us, sweet saint, to fight that fight and conquer in the strife.

REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S.J.

Favorite Practice.

When tempted to revenge, repeat the dying prayer of St. Stephen.

DECEMBER 27.

ST. JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist.

ST. JOHN, styled by excellence the Beloved Disciple, was the brother of St. James the Great. He was young when called to the apostolate, and survived our Lord seventy years. It was on his bosom that Jesus reposed at the Last Supper, and it was to his care that the Blessed Virgin was committed at the foot of the Cross. St. John is styled a martyr because, in the second general persecution of Domitian, he was cast into a caldron of boiling oil before the Latin gate. He came forth unhurt, and was banished for about the space of a year to the isle of Patmos, where he was favored with the Revelations, known to us as the Apocalypse of St. John. He wrote his Gospel after the other Evangelists, and many things that they had omitted were supplied by him. St. John both founded and governed the churches of Asia. Finally consumed with divine love, he died at Ephesus at the age of 93 years, exclaiming, to his last breath, "Little children, love one another!"

Oh, to breathe forth my soul's desire,
My burning love, with lips of fire!
Until that moment draweth nigh,
I die, because I cannot die.

From the Spanish of ST. TERESA D'AVILA.

Favorite Practice.

With St. John, to cast yourself every day into the burning furnace of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

DECEMBER 28.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS.

"AND when the wise men were departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in sleep to Joseph, saying, Arise, and take the child and his mother, and fly into Egypt, and be there until I shall tell thee: for it will come to pass that Herod will seek the child to destroy him. Who rising up, took the child and his mother by night, and retired into Egypt. . . . Then Herod, perceiving that he was deluded by the wise men, was exceeding angry; and sending, killed all the men-children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the confines thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremias the prophet, saying, A voice in Rama was heard, lamentation and great mourning; Rachael bewailing her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."—ST. MATTHEW ii. 13–19.

Trailing clouds of glory do we come,
From God who is our home.
Heaven lies about us in our infancy.

WM. WORDSWORTH.

Favorite Practice.

To endeavor zealously to prevent the spiritual slaughter of the innocents so common in our day.

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bishop and Martyr.

THIS eminent man was archbishop of Canterbury under King Henry II. of England. The latter not respecting the temporalities and immunities of the Church, St. Thomas became the fearless champion of religion's rights. He went into voluntary exile sooner than yield a principle of justice. On his return to his see, the king, finding him inflexible as before, in a fit of rage suggested to his creatures the despatching of the heroic prelate. His angry words were more quickly acted upon than he had, doubtless, expected. Four of his courtiers hastened to the cathedral of Canterbury, and there committed the atrocious sacrilege, the assassination of the holy archbishop. All Europe was horrified at the terrible crime. The assassins, one and all, perished miserably; and King Henry performed a severe penance for his awful sin. This happened in 1170, and St. Thomas was canonized three years later by Pope Alexander III.

. . . A name that long shall hallow all its space,
And be each purer soul's high resting-place.

THOMAS MOORE.

Favorite Practice

Prepare yourself to sacrifice your most precious treasure rather than sacrifice the cause of truth and justice.

DECEMBER 30.

ST. SABINUS AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs.

THE persecution of Diocletian was in progress in the year 303, when Sabinus, bishop of Assisi, and his two deacons, Marcellus and Euriperantius, were arrested for the faith. The deacons were at once put to death by the governor, Venustianus; but he only ordered Sabinus to be subjected to the torture of having his hands cut off. When the confessor stood thus mutilated before Venustianus, who was suffering at the time with a disorder of the eyes, the latter railed at Sabinus and asked him mockingly if he were able in that state to cure his eyes. Sabinus raised his heart to God, beseeching this miracle for his persecutor; and at once the scales fell not only from the eyes of the body, but from the eyes of Venustianus' soul. The governor was cured, converted, and soon after suffered martyrdom for the faith. His successor in office, Lucius, caused Sabinus to be sent to Spoleto and there be beaten to death with rods.

The Lord of our salvation their designs
O'erturned, and, for the glory of His heaven,
. . . . . This victory hath given.

From the Spanish of FERNANDO DE HERRERA.

Favorite Practice.

Return good for evil.

December 31.

ST. SYLVESTER, Pope and Confessor.

BEFORE the emperor Diocletian published his edict of persecution against the Christians, Sylvester had been ordained deacon and priest by Pope St. Marcellinus. The stormy days which followed were full of peril for the Church and for her devoted shepherds. But St. Sylvester had the happiness to witness the triumph of the faith under the emperor Constantine; and when in times of security the great councils of Arles and Nicæa were convened, although the holy Pope was too feeble with age to preside in person, he was represented by his faithful legates. His pontificate lasted for twenty years and eleven months; and he slept tranquilly in the Lord in the year 335.

. . . And as the old year seeks the goal,
And nears the portals of the past,
For thee a thought illumes my soul,
The brightest and the last.

MRS. MARY E. MANNIX.

Favorite Practice.

To review the shortcomings of the old year, and make generous resolutions for the new.

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